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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Since the endorsement of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000 1/ by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985, the Secretary-General has annually presented a report to the Assembly on the implementation of the Strategies. In its resolution 45/129 of 14 December 1990 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session on measures taken to implement the provisions of the resolution. This should include an assessment of recent developments relevant to the priority themes to be considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session, with a view to obtaining the views of Governments so that these can be transmitted to the Commission for inclusion in its consideration of the themes.

2. The present report has been prepared with contributions from and in consultation with the organizations of the United Nations system.

II. PRIORITY THEMES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AT ITS THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

3. The priority themes to be considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session in 1992 deal with finding means to close the gap between discrimination in law and discrimination in practice; finding means to integrate women fully in the development process, and on involving women in efforts to protect the environment as part of development; and ensuring women's participation in politics and decision-making on essential questions such as peace. When the Commission selected priority themes in 1987, those for its 1992 session were seen as a summary of issues dealt with during its first five years of organizing work on the basis of priority themes. In order to narrow and sharpen the focus of the analysis to be presented to the Commission, within each of these broader issues a narrower policy question will be examined in depth so as to permit the formulation of practical recommendations for action by Governments.

A. Equality: elimination of de jure and de facto discrimination against women

4. The first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (E/CN.6/1990/5) concluded that considerable progress had been made in recognizing and eradicating legal discrimination against women. The review and appraisal, however, showed that discrimination still existed in practice in all countries, regardless of their level of development.

5. Enactment of non-discriminatory laws alone cannot overcome discrimination. First, the principle of equal rights included in the laws does not take into account the present consequences of previous unequal status, providing a legal guarantee only for the present, even though the

previous conditions of inequality can influence the ability of persons to avail themselves of the law. Secondly, even when discrimination has been eliminated at the legal level it still can remain in real life and often takes on new, less visible forms so that the intent of the law can be evaded in subtle ways. As a result, de facto discrimination can persist long after de jure discrimination has been eliminated. The focus of the issue, therefore, shifts from prohibition of discrimination to implementation of legal measures to correct any de facto inequalities, whether they are consequences of past inequality or the result of evasion of the intent of the law.

6. Consistent with paragraph 61 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, 1/ the emphasis is on the measures that can be used most effectively to remove the obstacles to converting de jure equality into de facto equality. As recommended by the Strategies:

> "Governments that have not yet done so should establish appropriate institutional procedures whereby the application of a revised set of laws and administrative measures may be effectively enforced from the village level up and may be adequately monitored so that individual women may, without obstruction or cost to themselves, seek to have discriminatory treatment redressed. Legislation that concerns women as a group should also be effectively enforced and monitored so that areas of systematic or de facto discrimination against women can be redressed. To this end, positive action policy should be developed."

7. A number of international legal instruments have been adopted concerning effective enforcement of the laws prohibiting discrimination. These go beyond mere prohibition and imply a more active concept of implementation of equal opportunities. One of the first such instruments was the ILO Convention No. 100 (1951) on Equal Remuneration as well as Convention No. 111 (1958) concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation.

8. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, annex) includes the principle that equality provisions should be implemented through the adoption of all appropriate measures. Article 2 states that States Parties will "pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women" and will take measures to embody the principles in law, prohibit discrimination and "take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women". Article 3 also specifies that all appropriate measures be taken.

9. When the Convention was framed there was a clear recognition that States Parties should address the problems of the lingering consequences of past discrimination and evasion of the intent of the law by subtle means based on these consequences. This was embodied in paragraph 1 of article 4 of the Convention which states, inter alia:

"Adoption by States Parties of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women shall not be considered discrimination as defined in the present Convention, but shall in no way entail as a consequence the maintenance of unequal or separate standards; these measures shall be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved."

10. Article 4 introduces the principle of special measures intended to facilitate implementation of the other substantive provisions of the Convention (articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16) that also utilize the term "all appropriate measures" by indicating that temporary measures are lawful and appropriate for the elimination of de facto discrimination.

11. The importance of these measures was underscored early in the process of implementing the Convention. Based on its examination of the periodic reports of States Parties, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women stated in its General Recommendation No. 5, adopted in 1988, that States Parties should "make more use of temporary special measures such as positive action, preferential treatment or quota systems to advance women's integration into education, the economy, politics and employment". 2/

12. These positive action programmes are temporary measures that seek to eliminate de facto inequalities which have occurred because of past discrimination or as a result of current inequalities arising from the traditional comprehension of women's role in society. These programmes are intended to go beyond a recognition of a right to equality to the exercise of this right in all aspects of life.

13. These programmes tend to consist of a combination of corrective actions, new practices and promotional measures. They involve identifying and analysing the basis for discrimination and then changing those operational rules or practices that maintain discrimination. The intent is to affect the underlying bases of discrimination. In that respect, they include not only remedial measures aimed at achieving immediate results, but also are forward-looking in that they seek to develop alternative non-discriminatory practices that would eliminate the need for temporary measures.

14. The measures have to be flexible and selective, taking into account specific national objectives and priorities as well as the specific situation of women within a country. They might, variously, be designed to eliminate or counteract prejudicial attitudes towards women in social life; give women access to wider varieties of education, vocational training and employment opportunities; ensure their access to credit, land and technology; foster greater sharing of family and social responsibilities or promote women's active participation in economic and political decision-making.

15. An important factor in successful implementation of the programmes is the inclusion of legal, political and attitudinal dimensions as well as development of an appropriate institutional framework. Some of the steps taken to implement the programmes have included public declaration of

commitment to the policy of equal opportunities; identification and evaluation of the existing inequalities in the particular area through surveys, other data collection and analysis; setting an order of priorities determined in accordance with needs; appointment of an official at an appropriate rank to supervise the positive action effort; setting targets or establishing quotas, as well as defining timetables or specific dates by which the goals should be achieved; organizing the feedback and monitoring of the ongoing programmes; establishing bodies for processing appeals and settling disputes.

16. Pursuing positive action through Government policy in the public sector differs in some important respects from action in the private sector aimed at achieving the same objectives. In the public sector, which is supposed to reflect the public will directly, the law can make it incumbent on the public administration to develop and implement positive action programmes in conformity with national norms of equal opportunity. For example, it is possible to modify recruitment procedures to ensure that the criteria by which candidates are to be judged are gender-neutral and that no extraneous criteria are introduced which might prejudice women's chances; to examine entrance examinations for possible bias and include both sexes in selection panels. The same principles can be applied also to promotion and career policies, along with the changes in education and training arrangements. Very often, to ensure that the procedures lead to the desired result, recruitment targets, or in some cases, quotas as well as implementation timetables can be defined.

17. The extent to which direct action in the public sector can have an impact on the society as a whole depends, of course, on the degree to which the public sector is a major factor in employment and in norm-setting.

18. For the private sector, public policy regarding positive action is usually in the form of encouraging compliance with equality provisions through positive incentives, although it can also involve application of sanctions. Many enterprises will take positive steps autonomously because they would consider elimination of discrimination as a means of enhancing the productivity and efficiency of the firm. Others, however, might perceive that such steps would be costly. Accordingly, some mechanisms used include financial assistance from public authorities to private firms to implement, for example, occupational equality plans. It can include different forms of subsidies or tax reduction such as complete or partial compensation for additional costs involved in hiring women for or assigning them to jobs traditionally held by men and paying them accordingly.

19. Also, it is possible to influence the private firms through the award of public contracts, in which the award is conditional on achieving a particular gender balance, either at the time of award or within a definite timetable.

20. An equality clause can also be required as part of collective bargaining in labour relations. Positive action programmes are easy to implement and are more effective when they are applied in agreement between the Government, the employer and the trade union concerned, when they suit the needs and possibilities of the employees and employers, and when they are effectively

monitored and followed up with adequate resources by Governments as appropriate.

21. Traditional stereotypes concerning the role of women and men reinforce values that have contributed to discrimination against women, support a traditional sexual division of labour, and thus prevent the achievement of de facto equality. An aspect of positive action involves using the mass media to change the stereotypes and promote new values. Education and awareness-raising programmes aimed at changing public consciousness, attitudes and behaviour concerning issues of equality are an essential component of positive action.

22. While the emphasis here has been on positive action, as a temporary measure that might imply more favourable treatment for women in some situations in order to equalize their status with men, other measures termed "protective" which are intended to favour women are also used in some countries. These are covered by paragraph 2 of article 4 of the Convention, which states that: "Adoption by States parties of special measures, including those measures contained in the present Convention, aimed at protecting maternity shall not be considered discriminatory."

23. The protective measures mentioned in article 4 are not the same as the temporary measures designed to achieve de facto equality. The issue of protective measures is a long-standing one, based on a premise that women need special care because of their reproductive functions. However, while often this is specifically in terms of maternity (e.g. allowing women to have maternity leave of a certain length without an equivalent parental leave for men), it can lead to discrimination in practice when applied to women as a group. In some cases, it has involved prohibition of women's entry into certain types of activity on the grounds that the work is too dangerous (e.g. prohibiting night work or work in underground mines). Such measures may, in fact, result in a disadvantage to women by limiting their education and employment opportunities and confirming a traditional division of labour and thereby reinforcing women's subordinate position. To avoid this, protective measures concerning women can be justified only where women's very low status has placed them in occupations where they are at greater risk than men and only until the problem has been resolved. Even differential treatment relating to maternity protection should be set within a legal framework that recognizes the shared responsibilities between men and women in the rearing of children.

24. The report to be submitted to the Commission will analyse those issues in depth. It will be largely based on an analysis of reports of States Parties on the implementation of the provisions of article 4 of the Convention. In addition, national reports provided in 1989 for the review and appraisal of the Nairobi Strategies will also be considered. The aim of the report is to indicate where and how the principle of equal opportunities has been implemented through positive action programmes. Additional information available from Governments and research studies will also be used. The purpose is also to enable the Commission to pronounce on this issue in terms of policy action and other follow-up.

B. Development: integration of women in the process of development and women and the environment

25. In addition to the theme on integration of women in the process of development, the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-fourth session, decided to consider in 1992 the subject of women and environment. Moreover, General Assembly resolution 44/76 of 8 December 1989 on elderly women requested the Commission to deal with the question of ageing women and development as part of the theme on integration of women in the process of development. The common element in the development theme is its focus on linking the present with the future by examining how women can be involved more actively in development, at all ages and in relation to all significant development issues, including especially the environment.

1. Integration of women in the process of development

26. The importance of the integration of women in development grew in the course of the United Nations Decade for Women. In order to avoid that women would be left out of development, as either beneficiaries or as contributors, specific approaches for their integration have been elaborated. Three major types of approaches comprise what is broadly termed Women in Development: (a) projects designed specifically for women; (b) projects containing a component to involve women; and (c) projects in which women's issues are consciously included as part of overall project design (what could be called "mainstreaming").

27. In the past 10 years, there has been an increased awareness about the need to integrate women in development in all specialized agencies and bilateral and multilateral development agencies with a particular focus on the mainstreaming approach. For the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), for example, whose mission is the integration of women in development, the issue has been the subject of an evaluation leading to the publication of Women on the Agenda: UNIFEM's experience in mainstreaming with women 1985-1990, and the presentation of a statement to the UNDP Governing Council (DP/1991/46, para. 3) "identifying those key areas where UNIFEM support can have a significant impact in terms of enabling women to carry out their economic and civic activities and to participate in and benefit from decision-making on the use of mainstream development resources".

28. Poverty alleviation and income generation are two of the main areas where women have been specifically targeted. UNDP has assisted programmes in some countries focusing on social funds which aim, inter alia, at poverty alleviation, and from which poor women benefit. The World Food Programme (WFP) involves substantial numbers of women in mainstream food-aided projects, both in supplementary feeding programmes targeted to nutritionally vulnerable groups and more significantly in food-for-work schemes where women are employed in such non-traditional occupations as construction of irrigation or road networks. The high rate of women's participation in WFP-assisted projects reflects the greater poverty of women relative to men among the poor,

the "fit" between the resource WFP deploys (food) and the responsibilities women traditionally assume for household food provisioning and the compatibility of seasonal or casual employment with gender-based household labour allocations and time constraints. Similarly, the World Bank, within the broader goal of alleviating poverty through economic growth, is concerned with strengthening the analytical and conceptual framework for women in development, the identification of more effective ways to improve women's productivity and to enhance the impact on women in development activities of Bank operations. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) initiated a Programme for the Integration of Women in Industrial Development 1990-1995 and a Plan of Action for the biennium 1990-1991. Measures were designed to facilitate institutionalization of the consideration of women in the activities of the organization and giving attention to the participation of women in training and human resource development, including training for women entrepreneurs.

29. Similarly, a number of bilateral and multilateral development agencies have adopted policies of incorporating gender training as part of their ongoing training programmes to improve the competence of their development staff. UNDP has an active training programme in which government, United Nations agencies and UNDP staff participate at both the national and subregional levels.

30. Cooperation between Governments and United Nations funding agencies and funds, such as UNDP and UNIFEM, has increased in order to ensure that development plans mainstream concerns of women in development.

31. While efforts concerning particularly the mainstreaming of women's issues in development have increased, an assessment of the results is becoming necessary, especially in view of the world conference on women scheduled for 1995, where a major concern will be to articulate practical steps to increase women's participation in development.

32. The different approaches on women in development are based on assumptions about the role of women in development. An evaluation in terms of their overall success and the impact on the position of women in developing countries is needed. To do so successfully, the issue has to be approached from the perspective of both donors and of developing country recipients. It involves seeing the extent to which women's concerns have in fact been reflected in national development programmes and in the international development cooperation activities designed to support them.

33. Moreover, the concept of integration of women in development itself has to be discussed. The issue cannot be assessed, however, without first examining the underlying assumptions of major strategies for development. There exists a number of development strategies generated by different approaches in development thinking. Some of these make an assumption that development is gender-neutral; others deal with women as objects of development (in the sense of being a disadvantaged group requiring particular attention). Translated into government policies, the strategies have specific

impacts on women. There is a need to evaluate these impacts particularly in the field of economic management, industrialization, agricultural growth and rural development, human resources and social services, distribution of wealth and income.

34. In examining the integration and role of women in the development process in the 1990s, major changes of a political, economic and ecological nature that occurred during the last decade also need to be considered. Some regions have been more affected than others from changed terms of trade, debt and structural adjustment policies, ecological and natural disasters, epidemics, political instability, political changes, war and mass migration. Linked to their subordinate status in society, women living in these regions have been affected in ways different from men, and their potential contribution to development remains underutilized. Specific goals need to be defined for the remainder of the 1990s based on the real conditions under which women currently live.

35. In order to evaluate the concept of women in development and to begin the process of defining new challenges, a seminar is planned to be held at Vienna from 9 to 11 December 1991, organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women. It will bring together specialists from developing countries and representatives from operational organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, as well as bilateral development assistance agencies, research institutes, and non-governmental organizations that are active in the field of women in development.

36. As part of the concern with integration in development, as mandated by the General Assembly, a special analysis will be made of the contribution of ageing women to development. In 1991, the Commission on the Status of Women considered the issue of ageing women as a potentially vulnerable group under the priority theme of equality. A comprehensive picture of the issue of ageing women is being provided to the thirty-sixth session of the Commission once the issue of ageing and elderly women has been explored both in terms of a vulnerable group and as an active agent of development.

37. In 1982, the World Assembly on Ageing adopted the International Plan of Action on Ageing 3/ and recognized that the longer life expectancy of women may bring with it economic distress and social isolation. The Forward-looking Strategies endorsed it and stressed the need for women to be prepared in early life to face the consequences of longer life expectancy on a psychological, social and economic level. While professional and family roles of women are undergoing fundamental changes, ageing has to be considered as a stage of the life cycle bringing new challenges as well as opportunities for women.

38. There are major differences in ageing between the developing and developed world, despite the similarities in the socio-economic situation of older women. Ageing may well become one of the major economic and social problems in the developing countries as a significant demographic change takes place in countries that are not yet prepared to cope with it. Policies and programmes need to take into account the significant role of older women as agents of development and ensure that they benefit from development programmes.

39. Integration of ageing and elderly women into development means identification of obstacles and barriers to integration and recognition of the existing potential contributions of ageing women to development. Many contributions of elderly women such as care-giving, services in the informal sector, in agriculture and employment remain invisible and are not recorded in national accounts. If these invisible contributions to economic and social development were defined and quantified, women would gain not only compensation in their pension benefits where those exist, but also empowerment and recognition.

40. Gender-related differences exist in the provision of pensions and old-age benefits worldwide. The main reason for this is the different work history of women that has been characterized by low-paid jobs and frequent interruptions of the professional life for reasons of child care and family responsibilities. In developing countries, existing pensions cover only a small proportion of the population, and even a smaller proportion of the female population.

41. In developing countries and, to a lesser extent, also in developed countries, it is generally assumed by society and public authorities that the extended family will provide care for the elderly. Family structures are undergoing important changes that will have an impact on the availability of family support. The decrease of fertility means fewer potential care givers for the elderly, particularly older women. This affects regions where decline in fertility is often combined with changes in other variables influencing the family structure, such as marriage, divorce and widowhood. Migratory movements have a strong demographic impact on the availability of kin for providing income and care for the elderly, in particular, women who are often left behind. In addition, the increase in women's employment is a major change that will affect the availability of women for care of the elderly.

42. Successful integration of elderly women into development is linked to lifelong planning towards old age and includes a targeted approach for each age cohort of women. This applies particularly for those developing countries, where the majority of women cannot expect to receive any form of social security. Measures to achieve economic independence of the elderly thus need to be explored. Income-generating activities for younger and middle-aged women should take future developments into consideration and not only provide for the immediate. A life-course approach needs to be applied to all development programmes for women, taking into account the complete life cycle from birth to death rather than focusing only on certain ages. Such programmes should be designed in full awareness of possible later developments in life course, consider the perspectives for family and public support in future decades and be based on an identification of ways to avoid the emergence of socio-economic problems. Consequently, it is important to invest in young women in order to avoid future vulnerability. Young women need to be aware that their education and health will be their starting capital for the future. Women have to be encouraged to adopt a life-course perspective with regard to all matters of their public or private life.

43. The integration of women into the mainstream of development as a lifelong process may be both a survival strategy for women and a strategy for optimum use of human resources to accelerate national development. This entails implications for technical assistance that should build in the new dimension of lifelong planning into its criteria for project preparation and support.

44. The results of the United Nations University project on "Household Gender and Age", which is in its publication phase, show through a life-course approach, the impact on women of macro-events such as new development policies. The specific results of the project will be presented at a meeting that will take place at Rome from 23 to 24 October 1991.

45. An expert group meeting on ageing women and development organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women in cooperation with the American Association of Retired Persons will take place from 7 to 11 October 1991. It will discuss general conclusions and recommendations for policy makers to help integrate mid-life and older women into the process of development based on an analysis of older women's current contributions to development, and projections of some possible changes and their implications for future cohorts of older women. Types of action, public or private, in both developed and developing countries to strengthen the contributions of ageing women in the present and in the future will be assessed.

2. Women and the environment

46. The issue of the environment is a global concern for the present and future generations and, because it affects everyone, needs to be addressed with every available resource. It is not current practice to assign roles by gender with regard to environmental problems but the vital contribution of women to decision-making on those problems, as well as to the task of implementing solutions, should be fully recognized and promoted.

47. Women have shown their interest and concern in the state of the environment by taking action ranging from demonstrations against detrimental energy projects to physically protecting their immediate livelihood. On the whole, action by women has been limited to such grass-roots activities, but rarely have women been in positions where policy decisions have been taken on environmental management or the distribution of funds.

48. The serious climatic changes and environmental degradation, resulting from industry, deforestation, inappropriate land use, and air and water pollution, affect both women and men, worldwide. Women have often had to make the necessary adjustments to deal with environmental degradation and a more concerted international effort is needed to promote women as agents of environmental care.

49. In developed countries, the environmental problems being experienced are the result of the consumption patterns necessary to attain a desired wealthier lifestyle. The consumption of natural resources, including hydrocarbons, and

the subsequent production of toxic emissions and solid wastes are as unequal globally as the distribution of derived benefits. In the past, women have not been major decision makers but have increasingly become involved at the forefront in planning environmental projects and in initiating political action.

50. In developing and eastern and central European countries, much of the environmental degradation has resulted from the uncontrolled use of deterimental industrial and agricultural technologies. Developed countries have been reported as exporting environmentally harmful technologies and substances (for example, industrial methods of chemical production, energy-producing technologies and pesticides) to avoid the legal controls in their own countries and to exploit the lower costs prevailing in developing countries. To date, women have had little involvement in the decisions regarding the choice of the imported technologies or substances, or with regard to the safety, efficacy or effects of the imports to the recipient country. Similarly, the transnational disposal of toxic waste and pollution have become critical factors for developing countries attempting to protect their environment. The lack of involvement of women at the decison-making level in developing countries is often reflective of their status. Women could bring a different set of priorities and the benefits of their traditional knowledge to decisions regarding use of natural resources, industrial methods, bio-diversity, forest management and control of waste disposal and pollution.

51. Other forms of environmental degradation have resulted from situations of poverty. Poor or relocated people living in poverty lack the means to improve their living standards and, having to cope with immediate survival, cannot deal with longer-term issues of environmental protection. As the world population continues to increase, combating poverty and improving the living conditions of the poor becomes increasingly more difficult. Greater pressure is put on land already seriously affected by deforestation, desertification and erosion. During the past half-century, the great increase in the world population and the development of material wealth has resulted in the loss of many natural resources.

52. Preservation of the environment is a fundamental necessity for sustainable development. In the developing countries, the deprivation of traditional means of livelihood, through environmental degradation resulting from natural and man-made disasters, has forced great numbers of poor women into marginal environments. Malnutrition in many areas of the world is a serious obstacle to health and sustainable development and some infectious diseases are reappearing as a result of poverty and the lack of basic sanitation.

53. Women's action groups, established to protect their immediate environments, have often resulted in women becoming more involved in politics and the fight for their rights. Such groups, formed to improve the environment, have often led to an improvement in the status and living standards of the women involved, owing to the development of income-generating

projects. The emergence of "green" parties and their effect on governmental decisions has been noticeable and publicity of "green" activities in the media has greatly increased in recent years.

54. The premise of the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission will be that women should be more involved in the future and be more visible, particularly in decision-making positions with regard to the development of environmental policies, action and the distribution of resources. Women should have more say in the design and implementation of projects for development and for the environment. Furthermore, greater efforts should be made to make women more aware of the effects of the environment on their lives. All sources of information dissemination should be mobilized and access to environment education improved in order to increase the self-help potential of women in conserving and protecting the environment. The review and appraisal of the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies, conducted by the Commission in 1990, encouraged the development of educational programmes on environmental issues and their relation to daily life. The awareness of women should be increased in respect of environmental issues that affect the lives of themselves and their families. Programmes for information dissemination, literacy campaigns for women (especially regarding family planning) and consciousness-raising programmes on the rights of women should be improved and expanded.

55. In the report, successful projects undertaken by women at national and regional levels, and in rural and urban areas, will be presented and recognition given to instances of improved environmental management through women's initiative, leadership, traditional knowledge, skills and experience. To enhance the contribution of women, steps need to be taken to increase their access to appropriate technology for improved use of land, such as improved crop stocks, mechanization and pest control advice, particularly in developing countries. Women should directly participate in decisions with regard to the distribution of funds for projects, and the redistribution of funds from other areas of national budgets, and also in the evaluation of projects.

56. The benefits derived by women from projects directed at conservation such as new skills, income generation, confidence-building, and improvement in standard of living and status should be documented. Projects that have provided such benefits should be reproduced and adapted for other environmental situations and countries. Women who have acted as leaders of successful projects should be encouraged to identify what motivated them to take action and to assist and encourage other women to do the same. Their successes should be widely acknowledged and publicized. The Global Assembly on Women and the Environment - Partners in Life to be held at Miami from 4 to 8 November 1991, sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme and with the participation of other organizations of the United Nations system, will be a major forum for achieving those aims.

C. Peace: equal participation in all efforts to promote international cooperation, peace and disarmament

57. The issue of equal participation of women in all efforts to promote international cooperation and peace constitutes a third stage in the consideration of the wider issue of the participation of women in politics and decision-making. The outcome of the first stage was presented to the thirty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1989 and emphasized political participation of women on a mass basis, in parliaments, political parties, trade unions, issue associations and women's organizations. The report on "Equality in political participation and decision-making (E/CN.6/1990/2) submitted to the thirty-fourth session of the Commission in 1990, addressed the issue of the quantitative participation of women in decision-making in the public sector, in particular in Governments. That report was on the status of women under priority theme "Equality" in 1990.

58. The third stage focuses on the impact of women politicians, parliamentarians and grass-roots activists on the political process. Such impact is very difficult to measure due to women's significant underrepresentation in key national and international decision-making bodies and the very limited research on women's impact on politics. Much of the impact analysis takes place at the local level rather than the national. Accordingly, in order to strengthen substantive analyses of the subject, it was discussed by the expert group meeting on the role of women in public life, held at Vienna from 21 to 24 May 1991.

59. The results of the meeting and other sources indicate that, historically, women have tended to give priority to issues which directly affected their lives, such as equal rights, control over their own bodies, child care, health care and protection against sexual violence. It was mainly because of women's pressures and activities of women's groups and lobbies that those issues have been gradually included into national political agendas, thus bridging traditional "private" and "public" domains.

60. The involvement of women in other areas of politics, such as development, peace-related issues or public finance at the decision-making level is still unusual. However, at the community and grass-roots levels women seemed to be more involved with those issues, demonstrating through their activities, studies and statements deep concern over prevailing state of global affairs and their local reflection and sometimes elaborating alternative concepts and new solutions.

61. The prevailing underrepresentation of women at the decision-making levels has two kinds of implications, relating respectively to women's rights and to women as important human resources with a potential for development and change.

62. With regard to the first, contrary to the principles of human rights and democracy incorporated in the Charter of the United Nations and guaranteed by most national constitutions, the participation of women and men in public life on a basis of parity remains unimplemented. Women remain almost completely excluded from the main decision-making bodies and, consequently, cannot

directly influence key decisions on national and international policies. Such decisions have consequences for whole societies and obviously affect women, who constitute half of the population. Thus, women are de facto deprived of their rights and responsibilities as citizens of their countries. Exclusion of citizens of one gender from policy- and decision-making puts in question the democratic nature of political processes and systems. With that in mind, it can be argued that women should demand their share of power and exercise their right to equality without further delay, not because they are obliged to be exceptionally good or different from men but simply as citizens entitled to have their say on all major national issues in accordance with law and the basic principles of democracy. The Governments and the intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations system, should make such parity in participation a priority objective.

63. With regard to the second, owing to women's significant underrepresentation in the decision-making bodies the societies and the international community are deprived of valuable human resources, perspectives and skills in resolving global and national problems. Women's ideas, creative solutions and sometimes different preferences and interests can introduce an enriching dimension to the substance and process of policy-making at national and international levels. Women should address all major issues affecting their nations and the world drawing from their experience, reflecting women's common concerns on those issues as well as the variety of local, regional or professional perspectives and aspects.

64. Women's well-documented, almost complete, exclusion from decision-making bodies does not permit any assessment of women's direct contribution to policy-making at the national and international levels. Therefore, the question of whether women would bring about a quantitative change to policy-making and public choices will remain unanswered as long as women do not achieve a "critical mass" at the decision-making levels, nationally and internationally. There are only a few cases where women have participated in large enough numbers to test the hypothesis of a qualitative difference and these are in only a limited number of countries and more often at subnational levels.

65. However, there is some evidence, mainly based on non-governmental, grass-roots activities of women worldwide justifying the hypothesis that women set different priorities and bring a distinctive qualitative change to politics. For example, in addition to bringing traditional equality and women's rights issues into political agendas, certain aspects of such global issues as economic justice, developmental issues like debt, structural adjustment and the environment, social issues like educational quality, as well as political issues relating to war and peace, have raised the particular interest of women in many countries and motivated them to undertake various activities at the non-governmental level. That those themes retain women's interest everywhere confirms that all public issues are also women's concern. Neither the profound technological changes that have occurred during the past two decades nor the universal growth in consciousness about the importance of human rights have led to an acceptable level of social justice or a linking of

economic growth with social development. Women, who realize through their own experience the importance of these linkages, can play an important role in proposing political solutions that can reconcile these diverse factors.

66. The expert group meeting on women in public life concluded that women's special contribution to public life included a particular concern for justice and the ethical dimension of politics derived in part from their own experience of injustice and its consequences; a concern for future generations; an awareness of the value of consensus and agreement because of their central role in social relationships; and an ability of setting priorities and accomplishing tasks learned in the course of balancing competing demands for their time and attention in the family, at work and in the community. To these can be added women's awareness of problems in society that have either been ignored or considered merely "private" issues, such as domestic violence. Women in public life have helped to transform these problems into issues of public concern. Women in leadership roles can help make policies more appropriate to address these problems.

67. In view of general absence of women from the decision-making bodies at the national and international levels, all countries should seek remedies for the underrepresentation of women in public life. Strategies should address constraints that women face at the individual and institutional levels and in the context of societal values: short- and long-term measures aimed at removal of obstacles, including demeaning stereotypes; promotion of self-determination, equality, full incorporation of women in public life through a variety of measures, including education of future generations for equality; modification of institutional structures towards parity participation; various forms of affirmative action; stimulation of public and media awareness of women's rights and benefits resulting from parity power-sharing, expanding national and international gender disaggregated data, ensuring women's equal participation in some areas of private sector.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 45/129 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

A. Cooperation by the organizations of the United Nations system with the Commission on the Status of Women on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies

68. In paragraph 6 of resolution 45/129 the General Assembly urged all organizations of the United Nations system to cooperate effectively with the Commission in its task of promoting the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

69. The preparations for the work of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission involved considerable input from the organizations of the United Nations system. Their contribution was reflected in the documentation prepared for the Commission, particularly in the inputs to the reports on priority themes and to the respective expert group meetings or seminars organized to facilitate the preparation of the reports.

70. Coordinated support for the work of the Commission by the organizations of the United Nations system is planned at annual inter-agency meetings on advancement of women. For the next session of the Commission, the 15th Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Women, held at Vienna, from 11 to 12 March 1991, discussed the documents to be prepared for the thirty-sixth session. In order to improve support to the Commission, the meeting agreed that the 16th Ad Hoc meeting would take place immediately prior to the thirty-sixth session of the Commission and that, to coordinate approaches to the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, an informal inter-agency consultation would be held in late 1991.

B. Disabled women

71. In paragraph 17 of resolution 45/129, the General Assembly urged that particular attention be given by the United Nations and Governments to the situation of disabled women and that Governments take steps to ensure equalization of opportunities for these women in the economic, social and political fields. The question of disabled women was extensively discussed in 1991 when the Commission on the Status of Women considered the priority theme of vulnerable women and on its recommendation the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1991/21. That resolution invited Governments to follow general recommendation 18 (X) on disabled women adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its tenth session, 4/ and requested the ad hoc open-ended working group established in response to resolution 32/2 of the Commission for Social Development to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons to pay attention to the particular needs of disabled women.

72. One means of ensuring that gender issues are included in all discussions of disability are to develop further statistics that directly address gender issue. Efforts are continuing in the United Nations Statistical Office for that purpose.

C. Refugee women and children and migrant women: their contribution to the social, economic and political fields, and the need to avoid discrimination against them

73. In paragraph 18 of its resolution 45/129, the General Assembly urged the Commission on the Status of Women and the relevant organizations of the United Nations and Governments to give particular attention to refugee women and children and migrant women, taking into account their contribution to the social, economic and political fields and the urgent need to avoid all kinds of discrimination against women.

74. The Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-fifth session, considered the theme of refugee and displaced women and children, indicating the psychological and material problems stemming from their unstable situation in the country of initial asylum linked to the fact of being cut off from their home countries. On recommendation of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1991/23 of 30 May 1991, entitled "Refugee and displaced women and children". The resolution stressed that all action taken on behalf of refugee and displaced women should be guided by relevant international instruments relating to the status of refugees, as well as other human rights instruments, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

75. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the system-wide review assesses the experience and capacity of various organizations in the coordination of assistance to all refugees. Furthermore, Member States and the organizations concerned were urged to ensure the needs of refugees and displaced women in their planning and programme activities. Collection of refugee statistics, data disaggregated by age and gender, and recruitment of female field staff were also included among the issues of concern indicated in the resolution.

76. Regarding migrant women, the Commission, at its last session, had before it, under the priority theme equality, a report on vulnerable women, including migrant women (E/CN.6/1991/2). The Commission discussion stressed that migrant women encountered difficulties regarding access to employment and often found themselves in situations that led to their exploitation in the labour market. Migrant women needed information on their rights and obligations to improve their living conditions, access to vocational training. Other problems relating to their integration into a different environment and the situation of wives of migrant workers who had remained in their home countries and who depended on financial support from their male relatives were also raised. A resolution on women migrant workers was also adopted (resolution 35/6).

77. In terms of activities of organization of the United Nations system to deal with the issues, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has made major steps towards ensuring that particular attention is given to refugee women and refugee children and to ensuring that programmes planned for their benefit take into account their contribution to social and economic fields, and that they benefit equitably from these programmes. In July 1989, a Senior Coordinator for Refugee Women was engaged specifically to focus attention on that group and establish a policy and programme for integrating the issue throughout the organization. Shortly after, a project officer for women and children was appointed to reinforce these activities at the operational level. In October 1990, a policy on refugee women was approved by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/140 A of 14 December 1990. Concurrently, training was developed for staff of UNHCR and implementing partners to assist them in planning programmes for refugees that are sensitive to gender roles. These are complemented by three recently completed audiovisuals. In addition, the concepts of gender-based planning were integrated into procedures and emergency manuals, and general training modules. UNHCR participated with the Division for the Advancement of Women in the expert group meeting on refugee and displaced women and children in July 1990 and contributed to the document submitted for discussion by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session in 1991 (E/CN.6/1991/4). UNHCR was active in promoting and following up the recommendations arising from that meeting. UNHCR called public attention to the situation of refugee women through promoting and supporting it as the theme for International Women's Day, 8 March 1991. In cooperation with the Joint United Nations/NGO Group on Women, a book on refugee women will be published in the autumn of 1991. Future plans call for the issuance of guidelines for the protection of refugee women, expanded training, and emphasis on field implementation of the policy documents. In this connection, UNHCR is active in cooperating with United Nations and voluntary agencies in identifying future areas of cooperation.

78. A multi-disciplinary working group on refugee children within UNHCR is responsible for initiating, promoting and monitoring action to implement the Guidelines on Refugee Children which were established in 1988. A workplan is prepared annually to define and strengthen the organizational mechanisms through which the special needs of refugee children are addressed. Audiovisual materials are presently being produced to raise awareness and suggest practical steps to address the issues. Consultations have recently been held in Malawi to discuss implementation of the Guidelines. A plan of action is being prepared to promote and facilitate the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, annex) as this specifically applies to refugee children, and input will be provided to the Centre for Human Rights for the guidelines they are presently preparing.

79. The mandate of UNDP extends to providing emergency assistance as well as funding development projects assisting refugees and displaced persons. A section that has been recently established dealing with these issues is looking into ways and means of ensuring that gender concerns are addressed in all UNDP-assisted projects in these areas.

80. UNIFEM has reviewed its activities related to refugee women in the context of effective long-term development assistance and support to the integration of women in determining durable solutions. Subsequent to this, a policy and programmes guidelines paper has been prepared for consideration at the thirtieth session of the UNIFEM Consultative Committee to be held in September 1991. UNIFEM will strengthen cooperation with UNHCR for the greater integration of women into refugee and development assistance policies and programmes. For countries with a high probability or presence of refugee arrivals, UNIFEM will encourage country-specific refugee policies and programmes that integrate gender concerns, recognizing the contributions and needs of refugee women. In particular, UNIFEM will support innovative models for sustainable livelihood and effective protection measures particularly related to the conditions that foster violence against females.

81. Recent International Labour Organisation (ILO) activities included research on the employment conditions of migrant women working as domestic servants in private households.

82. The Special Committee against Apartheid has sponsored initiatives to seek international support for women and children in South Africa. In pursuance of a decision taken by the seminar on the special needs of South African and Namibian refugee women and children, held at Harare, Zimbabwe, in January 1989, the Special Committee established an international Support Group of Eminent Women to maintain close contact with local structures of South African and Namibian refugee women and children in the front-line States, and to increase publicity about the conditions and special needs of refugees. A report to the Special Committee (A/AC.115/L.665) contained recommendations regarding the needs of women and children refugees, including that the international community respond with greater efforts to the situation of long-term refugees who require developmental assistance beyond resources available to UNHCR and that refugee assistance programmes address the needs and resources of the target population and the specific needs of women and children. It was recommended that specific programmes should be established to address the psychological traumas and social problems faced by children in refugee areas. It was further recommended that United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations coordinate closely their activities and that adequate financing be allotted to development programmes to ensure that refugee women become and remain self-sufficient. ILO prepared a study on discriminatory legislation and conditions prevailing in the field of labour in Namibia and assisted national liberation movements and South African trade unions to deal with equality issues.

83. The United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa provides awards to young South Africans and Namibians for study abroad. A large number of recipients of awards under the programme have been women.

84. WFP provides food aid in areas affected by armed conflict or other man-made disasters, as well as during emergency food shortfalls resulting from sudden natural calamities or recurrent droughts. In the first quarter of 1991, WFP allocation to emergency operations amounted to $US 308 million. It

is significant to note that man-made disasters resulting in the displacement of populations within their own national borders or across national borders as refugees, account for 86 per cent of WFP total emergency food aid allocations in 1990. It is estimated that 8.4 million people, mostly women and children, received emergency food assistance through WFP in 1989.

85. In response to regional concern over problems related to labour migration arising from the Gulf crisis, the forty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on 10 April 1991 adopted resolution 47/9 on international cooperation on labour migration between the ESCAP and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) regions. The resolution calls for a thorough analysis of the demographic, economic and social policy issues involved in labour migration between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions. In the labour migration between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions, women are both the migrants and the wives left behind by male migrants. The analysis to be prepared by ESCAP will deal specifically with issues related to women and migration in the region.

D. Interregional consultation on women in public life

86. The Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-third session, by resolution 33/2, recommended the convening of a high-level interregional consultation on women in public life for not more than three days and financed through voluntary and other resources. The Economic and Social Council by its decision 1989/129 endorsed the recommendation. The General Assembly, by its resolution 44/77 of 8 December 1989, endorsed the convening of such a consultation. The consultation was expected to be financed essentially from extrabudgetary resources.

87. The Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (A/45/489) suggested that the consultation take place at Vienna from 10 to 12 September 1991. The General Assembly, by resolution 45/127 of 14 December 1990, decided that the consultation should be an intergovernmental meeting, urged Governments to participate actively in it, invited Governments and national institutions and organizations to provide extrabudgetary resources to facilitate its preparations, especially for the participation by least developed countries and for its publicity. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to assure its servicing and support.

88. The Secretary-General's report on the preparations for the Consultation to the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/1991/7) indicated that a note verbale had been sent to all Member States in December 1990, in which Governments were invited to communicate their intention to participate in the Consultation. It further noted that the Secretariat was exploring the possibilities of the participation of the women who were then elected heads of State or Government with each Government that then had one. The report also described preparations for an expert group meeting on the role of women in public life, which had been programmed as part of the preparation of the

priority theme on peace for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission and that could also provide input to the interregional consultation.

89. The expert group meeting was held from 21 to 24 May 1991, as scheduled. In addition to recommendations relevant to the priority theme on peace, it recommended a draft platform that could be considered by the interregional consultation.

90. As at 31 May 1991, pledges of extrabudgetary assistance, all earmarked for travel of participants, had been received from three countries, amounting to only half of the $150,000 estimated to be necessary to finance participation of all least developed countries; in addition, there were requests for assistance in participation from other developing countries. As at that date, only 25 countries had indicated their intention to participate as requested in the December note verbale. This, coupled with the lack of resources to ensure adequate participation of representatives of developing countries, would imply that the consultation would not constitute a universal forum.

91. Since the General Assembly had considered that the consultation was an important event towards the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, it was decided to reschedule the Consultation so that it could be properly determined in the context of the preparatory process of the Conference. Accordingly, it is proposed to provide detailed information on the rescheduling to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session, including options on possible new dates, means of financing and approaches to substantive issues so that the Commission, as preparatory body for the Conference, could make an appropriate recommendation.

E. 1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development

92. The General Assembly, in paragraph 21 of its resolution 45/129, requested the Secretary-General to continue updating the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (E/CN.6/1988/7), bearing in mind its importance, with particular emphasis on the adverse impact of the difficult economic situation affecting the majority of developing countries, in particular on the condition of women, giving special attention to worsening conditions for the incorporation of women into the labour force, as well as to the impact of reduced expenditures on social services on women's opportunities for education, health and child care. It requested the Secretary-General to submit a preliminary version of the updated World Survey to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, in 1993 and a final version in 1994.

93. The 15th Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Women considered in depth the preparation of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation on operational activities of the United Nations system in connection with a chapter of that report on women in development, and the forthcoming publication of The World's Women 1970-1990.

94. The new publication, The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics 5/ which was prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office in cooperation with the Division for Advancement of Women, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNIFEM, was released on 21 June 1991 at the United Nations, in New York. This publication is designed to reach a wide audience concerned with the status of women. It provides statistics and their analysis for understanding the evolution of conditions for women worldwide; it describes the contribution of women to economic, political and family life; and it provides arguments to persuade public and private decision-makers to change policies that are unfair to women. Given the importance of the topics covered by the publication and the fact that several United Nations entities had collaborated in its preparation, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation addressed a letter dated 24 July 1991 to all resident coordinators/resident representatives for operational activities of the United Nations system. By that letter he requested them to play a lead role in promoting the publication at the country level, in cooperation with United Nations information centres, where applicable, and the sponsoring organizations. It was suggested that October 24, United Nations Day, might be one possible occasion for a special promotional event on the publication, for example, a seminar, parliamentary motion or press conference. Enclosed with the letter was a list of materials available to support the promotional efforts, including, inter alia, the 1991 annual report of the Director-General on operational activities of the United Nations system (A/46/206-E/1991/93 and Add.1-3), which contains a separate chapter on women in development.

95. Based on the outline agreed by the organizations that will participate in the preparation of the 1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, further work will be undertaken on the preparation of the Survey and progress will be reported to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission on the Status of Women, in 1993. Subsequently, an annotated outline will be presented to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session in 1993 and the final report will be presented to the Assembly through the Council in 1994.

F. Contribution of the Commission on the Status of Women to the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994

96. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 45/129, requested the Commission on the Status of Women, when considering the priority theme under development during its thirty-fifth and subsequent sessions, to ensure its early contribution to the work of the international meeting on population to be held in 1994 and to address the role of technologies in the development of developing countries. The Commission has in its long-term programme of work a number of themes of direct relevance to the International Conference on Population and Development. It is anticipated that the result of the Commission's discussion can provide an input to the Conference, although the specific form of that input has not yet been determined by the Commission.

97. The Commission started its contribution to the international meeting on population by discussing the question of migrant women as a vulnerable group and adopting resolution 35/6 on women migrant workers. In that resolution, the Commission encouraged Member States to establish or strengthen appropriate services dealing with issues relating to the international migration of workers and members of their family; it further encouraged Member States to consult and cooperate with a view to promoting sound, equitable and humane conditions in connection with the international migration of women. The relevant organizations of the United Nations system and others were requested to assist in disseminating among migrant women information on their legal, social and economic rights and obligations, to provide counselling services, identify problems and cooperate with decision makers.

98. At its thirty-sixth session, under the priority theme on development, the Commission will consider the question of ageing women and development, for which an expert group is being organized at Vienna from 7 to 11 October 1991 by the Division for the Advancement of Women in cooperation with the American Association of Retired Persons.

99. At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission will consider, as its priority theme on development, women in urban areas: population, nutrition and health factors for women in development, including migration, drug consumption and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). The preparation of this theme will include a seminar on the subject organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women in the autumn of 1993. It will also draw on regional and subregional seminars organized by the Division on Population and national machinery for the advancement of women, such as that held at Lomé in May 1990 with the support of UNFPA.

100. The Commission will also be kept informed about the results of regional meetings and expert group meetings being held as part of the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, especially the expert group meeting on women and population. Acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, the Population Commission, at its twenty-sixth session, recommended that the subject of women and population dynamics be one of the six major issues of the meeting to be accorded the highest attention during the next decade. In a corresponding expert group, emphasis will be placed on linkages between enhancing the roles and socio-economic status of women and population dynamics, including adolescent motherhood, maternal and child health, education and employment, with particular reference to the access of women to resources and the provision of services.

G. World conference on women to be held in 1995

101. Paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of General Assembly resolution 45/129 deal with the various aspects regarding the World Conference on Women. In paragraph 8, the Assembly endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990, in which the Council recommended the holding of a world conference on women for 1995 and requested the Commission on the Status

of Women to be its preparatory body. In paragraph 9, the Assembly took note of the invitation by the Government of Austria to host the conference; in paragraph 10, the Assembly requested the Commission on the Status of Women to decide on the venue of the conference with preference for those regions which had not yet hosted a world conference on women. The matters raised in paragraphs 12 and 13, dealing with the agenda and the appointment of the Secretary-General of the conference, were not considered by the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-fifth session, but will be taken up at its thirty-sixth session.

102. In discussing the conference and its preparations, many representatives to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session felt that, in spite of progress made in some areas, the conference would be an opportunity to give new impetus to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, whose implementation was viewed as generally slow, and even characterized by a movement backward in some areas. It was stated that the conference should be geared towards action and clearly formulate specific guidelines for activities to make it effective. The Commission adopted resolution 35/4 regarding the preparations for the conference. It was decided to prepare a programme of action with a limited number of issues identified as fundamental obstacles to the advancement of women. Such a programme should establish action-oriented guidelines to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, focusing again on equality, development and peace and bearing in mind the changing external environment and emerging issues.

103. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 45/129, the General Assembly requested that the Commission, in deciding on the preparations for documentation for the conference, pay attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/9 of 24 May 1990 concerning the second report on the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies. That resolution had requested the Secretary-General to base the second report progress in the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies on national reports and available analyses of statistical data in the United Nations system as well as in other pertinent governmental and non-governmental organizations and to report to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session on the data that would be used and an outline of the second report. That information, as well as other information requested by the Commission in its resolution 35/4, such as a draft report to serve as a working document for the elaboration of the programme of action and on the contribution of the United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned, towards the preparations of the 1995 world conference on women will all be included in the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the conference.

104. The Commission, by its decision 35/101, decided that the title of the 1995 conference should be the "Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace", and that for promotion at the national level, the subtitles could include: "Remove the Obstacles Now"; "Women: Half the World - Half the Power"; "Women: Mobilizing for Power - Acting for Change"; and "Social Justice for Women".

105. Regarding the venue of the conference, the Commission adopted decision 35/102 by which it agreed to make known its decision during its thirty-sixth session.

106. At the regional level, ESCAP, in its resolution 46/6 of 13 June 1990 on integration of women in all aspects of development, called for a study on the progress made and obstacles encountered in the ESCAP region in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and for a regional intergovernmental meeting on women in development to be convened in 1993 as a preparatory activity for the 1995 World Conference on Women. The forty-seventh session of ESCAP, in April 1991, welcomed the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the regional intergovernmental conference on women in development in January 1993.

H. More effective public information programme related to the advancement of women

107. In paragraph 24 of its resolution 45/129, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide for the existing weekly radio programmes on women in the regular budget of the United Nations, making adequate provisions for broadcasts in different languages, and to develop the focal point for issues relating to women in the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, which, in concert with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, should provide a more effective public information programme relating to the advancement of women.

108. The Department of Public Information attaches priority to information activities concerning the advancement of women. A focal point for issues relating to women within the Department coordinates the Department's activities on women and serves as focal point for interagency information activities on women. Meetings of the interagency advisory group on information activities on women continue to be held, under the chair of the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, to discuss joint projects and to exchange information and ideas. Frequent consultations are also held between the Department and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The Department assists other organizations in publicizing their work on advancement of women. For example, The World's Women: 1970-1990, which was prepared under the leadership of the United Nations Statistical Office on the basis of a cooperative effort of several organizations, was publicized both at Headquarters and through United Nations information centres in 67 countries, utilizing the Department's print, radio and television capacities.

109. To build on the interest generated by The World's Women: 1970-1990, the Department will publish at the end of 1991, Women: Challenges to the Year 2000. That publication will discuss obstacles to the advancement of women in employment, health, education, political participation, the peace process and legal literacy and outline actions that should be taken to overcome those obstacles. A number of other public information activities

will also be undertaken by the Department starting next year as part of public information on women's issues leading up to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

110. During the past year, a number of special events were undertaken by the Department with interagency collaboration, to publicize various issues concerning women. World AIDS Day 1990 focused on women and AIDS; on International Women's Day 1991, a major event at Headquarters focused on "Making Women Count in the 1990s" and covered such subjects as political participation, refugees, health and family planning and legal literacy related employment issues. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (3 September 1991), the Department distributed a package of information products for use by United Nations information centres and United Nations agency field offices to generate interest locally in the Convention. Field offices are also being encouraged to use United Nations Day (24 October 1991) to publicize an array of recent United Nations materials on women, and at Headquarters a panel discussion on sex stereotyping and women's changing image in the global media will be held with members of the international news media and representatives of international non-governmental organizations.

111. The Department continues to produce its weekly radio programme on women in English, with adaptations into Arabic, French and Spanish. More than 300 radio organizations worldwide receive these programmes. During the past year, several special two-part programmes have been made on topics such as women refugees, the girl child, women in the informal sector, prostitution, women and the environment and traditional practices affecting the health of women and children.

112. A number of videos and television programmes on issues relating to women were also produced by the Department, including an educational video and accompanying study guide on women and literacy and a documentary on women and work.

113. Special print materials on women were produced such as the 1991 calendar of women's activities, which highlighted special events, conferences, symposia and expert group meetings being held by the United Nations system during 1991. A series of special feature articles on women were also published and distributed to the international news media on such topics as literacy, AIDS, refugees, and the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

114. Since the Nairobi Conference, the Division for the Advancement of Women had published in English, French and Spanish Women News, a four-page newsletter, eight times a year, and Women 2000, a 16 to 20-page bulletin, three times a year. Eight issues of Women News and three of Women 2000 were issued in 1990 and three issues of Women News and two of Women 2000 have been issued in 1991. It has been found difficult to ensure that Women News would be consistently issued in a timely manner, and it has accordingly been decided to discontinue it in the next biennium and instead increase the number of

issues of Women 2000 to five per year, including in them some of the material formerly published in Women News.

115. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has public information as one of its priorities selected for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women. Implementation is mainly through the publication of technical documents and strategy papers on women in development. In addition, FAO is developing a database on women in development to improve knowledge on gender issues for the use of policy and decision makers and FAO personnel as well.

116. In its international campaign and activities, the Special Committee against Apartheid has always accorded high priority to the plight of women and children and the specific ways in which the apartheid system affects women and children in apartheid South Africa. The programme of work for 1991 of the Special Committee against Apartheid included a meeting of the Special Committee on the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa on 9 August.

117. ESCAP established the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP) in 1986 and since 1987 has published WINAP Newsletter, a biannual newsletter. Two issues of WINAP Newsletter were published in 1990 and two issues were to be published in 1991. Regional databases are being developed and updated for the information network.

118. UNIDO publishes technical reports and has issued a booklet highlighting ways in which women's participation in industry is made visible in the organization's activities. In addition, features on women in industry are included in UNIDO regular periodicals and a film on improved production technology used by women is being produced.

119. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People with the assistance of the Division for Palestinian Rights has taken into account the situation of Palestinian women. Since 1984, the North American NGO Symposia and the International NGO Meetings have regularly included workshops on this issue. Efforts are also regularly made to include women speakers in the various seminars, symposia and meetings organized under the auspices of the Committee. The monthly bulletins of the Division, which cover the work of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organization and non-governmental organizations on the question of Palestine, regularly include information on relevant resolutions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

I. New five-year targets for the percentage of women in professional and decision-making positions at each level in the United Nations system

120. In paragraph 22 of resolution 45/129, the General Assembly requested Governments, when presenting candidatures for vacancies in the Secretariat, in particular at the decision-making level, to give priority to women's

candidatures, and requested the Secretary-General, when reviewing these candidatures to give special consideration to female candidates from underrepresented and unrepresented developing countries. Subsequently, on recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1991/17, in which the Council urged the Secretary-General to accord greater priority to increasing the number of women in posts subject to geographical distribution, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts, in order to achieve an overall participation rate of 35 per cent by 1995. It also urged him to accord priority to increasing, by 1995, the participation rate for women to 25 per cent in posts at the D-1 level and above.

121. As at 31 December 1991, the percentage of women among Professional staff at Headquarters and other established offices for the United Nations system as a whole was 25.5 per cent. 6/ The percentages, however, continued to vary according to the organization concerned and the level of the posts (see table 1). Only at the entry-level had the 35 per cent target been achieved, although it is being approached at the regular professional level in some types of organizations. There has been progress since 1987, particularly in the lower grade levels, as can be seen in figure 1. Progress can be observed in all types of organizations.

122. As noted in the past, the situation is particularly unsatisfactory at the middle and senior management levels. In terms of the target set by the Economic and Social Council for posts at the D-1 level and above, table 2 shows that progress has been exceedingly slow (an increase of only two percentage points overall in four years) and, if continued at this rate, the target would only be achieved in 37 years (i.e. in 2028). The difficulties in increasing women's representation at that level are reflected in the figures for the United Nations Secretariat for 1987 and 1990. While the number of women at the director (D-2) level increased from 5 in 1987 to 10 in 1990 (out of a total of 99), the number of women at the principal officer (D-1 level declined from 28 in 1987 to 17 in 1990 (out of 257).

123. At the very highest level, the situation is particularly dramatic. As at 31 December 1990, there were only six women at the levels of under-secretary-general or assistant secretary-general in the entire United Nations system, compared with 168 men at that level. They were Miss Margaret Anstee and Ms. Thérése Sévigny of the United Nations Secretariat, Dr. Nafis Sadik of UNFPA, Ms. Karin Lokhaug of UNICEF, Ms. Mary Chinery-Hesse of ILO and Ms. Francine Fournier of UNESCO. The number increased to seven in 1991 with the appointment of Mrs. Sadako Ogata as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It should be noted that as at 1 August 1991 there were more elected female heads of State or Government in the world (eight) than high-ranking female officials of the United Nations system.

Table 1. Per cent of women at different professional levels in the United Nations system, 1990

	Senior Management (Director and above) (Percentages)	Middle Management (Senior and principal officers) (Percentages)	Regular Professional (First and second officers) (Percentages)	Entry-level (Associate and assistant officers) (Percentages)
United Nations Secretariat	7.8	15.2	34.2	43.1
United Nations voluntary funds	7.5	16.5	31.1	48.9
Specialized agencies	3.8	7.1	26.2	48.0
Other	0.0	5.3	20.0	61.1
Total	5.6	10.5	29.5	47.1

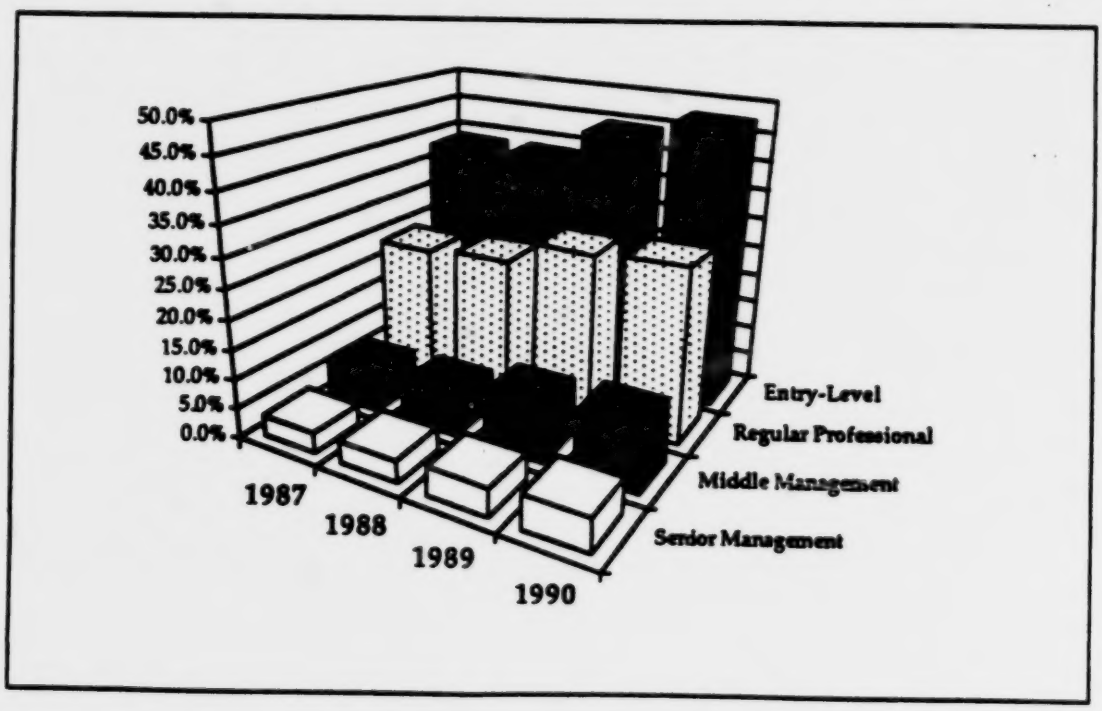
Source: Consultative Committee for Administrative Questions (Personnel Matters), report for 1990.

Table 2. Per cent of women at principal officer (D-1) level and above in the United Nations system, 1987-1990

	1987	1988	1989	1990
United Nations Secretariat	6.5	5.7	6.9	7.1
United Nations voluntary funds	5.2	8.2	9.1	9.8
Specialized agencies	0.0	3.6	3.8	4.9
Other	0.0	2.9	5.3	5.3
Total	4.3	5.0	5.5	6.4

Source: Consultative Committee for Administrative Questions (Personnel Matters), reports for 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990.

Figure 1. Per cent of women in professional positions in the organizations of the United Nations system, by level, 1987-1990



124. Among professional project personnel, persons serving in field posts of the United Nations system, the proportion of women is lower on average than for headquarters posts, as can be seen from table 3. There is considerable variation, however, among those organizations which have large numbers of project personnel (more than 90), with UNICEF having the highest percentage and the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Telecommunication Union having the lowest.

Table 3. Per cent of women among professional project personnel in the United Nations system, 1990

	Number of project personnel	Percentage women
United Nations Secretariat	947	12.1
United Nations voluntary funds	549	28.8
UNDP	203	22.2
UNHCR	239	27.6
UNICEF	327	33.9
Specialized agencies:	2 972	12.2
ILO	620	18.4
FAO	1 152	9.4
UNESCO	98	10.2
WHO	534	18.9
ICAO	161	0.6
ITU	91	0.0
UNIDO	250	11.2
Other	121	8.3
International Trade Centre	110	8.2
Total	4 940	14.7

Source: Consultative Committee for Administrative Questions (Personnel Matters), report for 1990.

125. With regard to targets and other policies to increase the proportion of women in the staff of the organizations of the system, a number have reported on new developments.

126. The role of the Field Operations Division of the United Nations Secretariat is to provide administrative and logistical support to United Nations peace-keeping operations. In selecting civilian personnel for field missions, the Division seeks to ensure full participation of women, who are represented among the international and local staff of all the missions, although they continue to be underrepresented in technical occupations such as radio operator, radio technician, vehicle mechanic, security officer, and electrician, for lack of applicants. In recent years, an increasing number of women have been called upon to serve in senior positions (Chief of Administration, Chief Finance Officer, Chief Civilian Personnel Officer, Legal Adviser) in field missions and were major participants as election monitors, as well as in other roles, in recent operations in Haiti, Namibia and Nicaragua.

127. UNDP is essentially a field-oriented organization. It maintains offices in 113 countries, 6 of which are headed by women resident representatives. By mid-1991, the proportion of women professionals ranged between 7 per cent at the D-1 level to 60 per cent at the P-2 level. Five women are at the D-2 level, out of a total of 51. UNDP has attempted to increase the number of women professionals. Although these increases may not be at the decision-making level, they are, nevertheless, beginning to show at the middle-management level where women hold 20 per cent of all P-5 posts and constitute 30 per cent of all professionals at the P-4 level.

128. Early in 1990, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) adopted the long-term goal of equal, that is 50/50, representation of men and women in the professional category. A target of 40 per cent was adopted for female professional staff by the end of 1991 with emphasis on placing them at management and decision-making levels. UNFPA achieved this target of 40 per cent ahead of schedule, since by early 1991, the representation of women in the professional category had already reached 40.5 per cent. The attainment of a target of 42 per cent by the end of 1991 is deemed to be very realistic.

129. At UNHCR, 28 per cent of the 720 professional staff (regular budget and project) on board as at 1 July 1991 are women. At the D-1 level and above, the percentage is 11 per cent. At entry levels, the percentage reaches 38 per cent.

130. Although the proportion of women in the Professional and higher categories has been steadily improving at ILO, it was recognized that measures needed to be taken to reach a considerably higher proportion and at a more rapid pace. In 1990, it was decided to establish an Ad Hoc Task Force on the Status of Women in the Professional and higher categories to review the situation of women in the ILO. The recommendations included in the report of the Task Force which was finalized at the end of last year have been approved

and include targets by grade (P-1/2 to D-2) and an overall target of 31 per cent by the end of 1995. The Personnel Department has been actively reviewing measures and strategies to attain the recommended targets and intends to pursue these vigorously.

131. FAO faces great difficulty to increase the percentage of women in professional positions because of the highly specialized areas of activity. The overall percentage was 18.2 per cent as at December 1990. But, internally, there is a significant difference between non-technical and technical divisions. In non-technical divisions, the percentage is higher: 37 per cent in personnel, 72 per cent in the Library and Documentations Systems Division. The percentages in FAO representative offices and in field projects are much lower, respectively 5.7 per cent and 3.4 per cent in 1990. In 1989, less than 10 per cent of consultants recruited were females.

132. With regard to the appointment of women to field posts, the United Nations system uses large numbers of experts, who influence projects and their outcomes for women. As a matter of principle, there should be more women consultants. Women are grossly underrepresented as team leaders and members of programme-related missions. In project implementation, women are also underrepresented as chief technical advisers and long-term experts. It is expected that the issue of women as project personnel will be discussed at the inter-agency level over the next year.

J. System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001

133. In paragraph 20 of its resolution 45/129, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in formulating the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 and in integrating the Forward-looking Strategies into activities mandated by the General Assembly, to pay particular attention to the strengthening of national machineries for the advancement of women and to the specific sectoral themes that cut across the three objectives, equality, development and peace, in particular literacy, education, health, population, environment and the full participation of women in decision making.

134. The system-wide medium-term plan is currently under preparation. The General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, will have before it the outline of the plan for review.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/43/38), para. 770.

3/ Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

4/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), chap. I.

5/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XVII.3.

6/ This differs from professional posts subject to geographical distribution which applies primarily to the United Nations Secretariat and is limited to non-language posts financed from the regular budget. The system figures include Professional posts of all types and all sources of funding assigned to Headquarters functions.

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/74 B)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/74 B of 11 December 1990, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"2. Condemns once again the failure of Israel, the occupying Power, to acknowledge the applicability of the Convention to the territories it has occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"3. Strongly demands that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention and comply with its provisions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

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* A/46/150

"4. Urgently calls upon all States parties to the Convention to exert all efforts in order to ensure respect for and compliance with its provisions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 25 March 1991, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/74 C)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/74 C of 11 December 1990, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Determines that all such measures and actions taken by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 are in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, constitute a serious obstacle to the efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East and therefore have no legal validity;

"2. Strongly deplores the persistence of Israel in carrying out such measures, in particular the establishment of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

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* A/46/150.

"3. Demands that Israel comply strictly with its international obligations in accordance with the principles of international law and the provisions of the Geneva Convention;

"4. Demands once more that Israel, the occupying Power, desist forthwith from taking any action that would result in changing the legal status, geographical nature or demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"5. Urgently calls upon all States parties to the Geneva Convention to respect and to exert all efforts in order to ensure respect for and compliance with its provisions in all occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 25 March 1991, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/74 D)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/74 D of 11 December 1990, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Deplores the arbitrary detention or imprisonment by Israel of thousands of Palestinians as a result of their resistance against occupation in order to attain self-determination;
>
> "2. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to release all Palestinians and other Arabs arbitrarily detained or imprisoned;
>
> "3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly as soon as possible but not later than the beginning of its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 25 March 1991, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister

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* A/46/150.

for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/74 E)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/74 E of 11 December 1990, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Strongly deplores the continuing disregard by Israel, the occupying Power, of the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council and resolutions of the General Assembly;

"2. Demands that the Government of Israel, the occupying Power, rescind the illegal measures taken by its authorities in deporting Palestinians and that it facilitate their immediate return;

"3. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cease forthwith the deportation of Palestinians and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

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* A/46/150.

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly as soon as possible but not later than the beginning of its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 25 March 1991, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/74 F)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/74 F of 11 December 1990, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Strongly condemns Israel, the occupying Power, for its refusal to comply with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, particularly Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, should rescind forthwith its decision;

"2. Condemns the persistence of Israel in changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan;

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* A/46/150.

"3. Determines that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the Syrian Arab Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and have no legal effect;

"4. Strongly condemns Israel for its attempts forcibly to impose Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, and calls upon it to desist from its repressive measures against the population of the Syrian Arab Golan;

"5. Deplores the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention;

"6. Calls once again upon Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 25 March 1991, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/74 G)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/74 G of 11 December 1990, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Reaffirms the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"2. Condemns Israeli policies and practices against Palestinian students and faculty members in schools, universities and other educational institutions in the occupied Palestinian territory, especially the opening of fire on defenceless students, causing many casualties;

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* A/46/150.

"3. Also condemns the systematic Israeli campaign of repression against and closing of universities, schools and other educational and vocational institutions in the occupied Palestinian territory, in large numbers and for prolonged periods, restricting and impeding the academic activities of Palestinian universities by subjecting the selection of courses, textbooks and educational programmes, the admission of students and the appointment of faculty members to the control and supervision of the military occupation authorities, in flagrant contravention of the Geneva Convention;

"4. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with the provisions of that Convention, rescind all actions and measures against all educational institutions, ensure the freedom of those institutions and refrain forthwith from hindering the effective operation of the universities, schools and other educational institutions;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly as soon as possible but not later than the beginning of its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 25 March 1991, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Situation of human rights in southern Lebanon

Note by the Secretary-General

1. By its decision 1991/268 of 31 May 1991, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Human Rights, 1/ containing resolution 1991/66 of 6 March 1991 on the situation of human rights in southern Lebanon. In paragraph 5 of the resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General (a) to bring the resolution to the attention of the Government of Israel and to invite it to provide information concerning the extent of its implementation thereof and (b) to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session on the results of his efforts in that regard.

2. In accordance with that request, the Secretary-General, on 27 June 1991, addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he drew the attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to paragraph 5 of the resolution.

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* A/46/150.

91-29567 2628h (E)

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 2 (E/1991/22).

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ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Report of the Secretary-General

1. Pursuant to article 8, paragraph 6, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX)), States parties "shall be responsible for the expenses of the members of the Committee while they are in performance of Committee duties".

2. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning the question of financing the expenses of the members of the Committee (A/45/579) and adopted resolution 45/88 of 14 December 1990, in which the Assembly, inter alia, recalling the urgent appeals made by the Secretary-General, the Assembly, the meetings of States parties to the Convention and the Committee itself to the States parties to honour their financial obligations under the Convention, expressed its profound concern at the fact that a number of States parties to the Convention had still not fulfilled their financial obligations, which had led to the cancellation of the spring 1990 session of the Committee; expressed once again its concern that such a situation had led to further delay in discharging the substantive obligations of the Committee under the Convention; strongly appealed to all States parties, especially those in arrears, to fulfil their financial obligations under article 8, paragraph 6, of the Convention and to pay their outstanding contributions and, if possible, their contributions for 1991 before 1 February 1991, so as to enable the Committee to meet regularly. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to seek to obtain, at the earliest opportunity, the concurrence of the States parties to the Convention to the establishment of a "contingency reserve fund", as envisaged in the

Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/25 of 27 February 1990; invited the Secretary-General to explore other possibilities of establishing a more secure basis for future financing of all the costs of the Committee; and requested the Secretary-General to invite those States parties which were in arrears to pay the amounts in arrears, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

3. Pursuant to the General Assembly's request, the Secretary-General, by a note verbale dated 14 May 1991, transmitted to 128 States parties to the Convention an aide-memoire outlining the modalities for establishing a more secure basis for financing the expenses of the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and invited them to submit their replies to the proposal contained in the aide-memoire by 31 August 1991.

4. As at 30 September 1991, 20 replies were received. Sixteen States parties agreed to the establishment of a "contingency reserve fund". However, four States parties did not concur with the proposal. Therefore, in the absence of unanimous agreement, it is recommended that this question be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to be held in January 1992.

5. As at 30 September 1991, the total outstanding assessments and arrears was $US 182,932, as detailed in the annex to the present report.

ANNEX

Responsibilities of the States parties for the expenses of the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under article 8, paragraph 6, of the Convention

Assessments outstanding as at 30 September 1991

(United States dollars)

Afghanistan	986	Mali	9 488
Argentina	3 653	Mauritania	1 477
Bangladesh	514	Mauritius	514
Burkina Faso	6 268	Mongolia	514
Burundi	8 537	Mozambique	4 735
Belarus	853	Nepal	514
Cambodia	1 882	Nicaragua	1 882
Cameroon	580	Niger	2 388
Cape Verde	6 800	Nigeria	1 387
Central African Republic	7 422	Norway	15
Chile	588	Panama	1 370
Congo	2 235	Peru	2 068
Costa Rica	3 540	Philippines	834
Côte d'Ivoire	1 567	Qatar	556
Dominican Republic	3 166	Republic of Korea	736
Ecuador	535	Romania	1 356
El Salvador	6 800	Rwanda	514
Ethiopia	514	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	6 275
Finland	10	Seychelles	514
France	7 129	Sierra Leone	8 297
Gabon	535	Solomon Islands	1 882
Gambia	7 469	Somalia	6 666
Guatemala	3 990	Sudan	3 148
Guinea	542	Suriname	3 236
Haiti	1 388	Swaziland	1 536
Holy See	514	Togo	1 005
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	328	Tonga	436
Iraq	1 213	Trinidad and Tobago	1 108
Israel	1 388	Uganda	2 388
Jamaica	514	Ukraine	1 828
Lao People's Democratic Republic	986	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	11 092
Lebanon	4 460	United Republic of Tanzania	1 536
Lesotho	986	Uruguay	545
Liberia	6 777	Viet Nam	1 882
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1 561	Yemen	1 194
Madagascar	986	Yugoslavia	800
		TOTAL	182 932

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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Outcome of the informal exchange of views held in the Economic and Social Council on the report of the South Commission

Report of the President of the Economic and Social Council

1. An informal discussion of the report of the South Commission 1/ took place during the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council on 3 July 1991. Opening statements were made by the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the South Commission, Mr. Julius K. Nyerere, the Foreign Minister of Venezuela, Mr. Armando Duran, the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Ms. Helga Hernes, who spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries, and Ambassador Alioune Sene on behalf of President Diouf of Senegal. The informal discussion was preceded by the statements made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and by the four panelists, Messrs. Jan Pronk, Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, Babacar N'Diaye, President of the African Development Bank, Jose Serra, Member of Federal Congress of Brazil, and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Members of the South Commission, Messrs. Ismail Sabri Abdalla, Gamani Corea, Aldo Ferrer, Abdus Salam and Layachi Yaker were present during the discussion. A number of speakers took the floor, either on behalf of their own country or on behalf of groups of countries. Some of the major policy points and action-oriented proposals made in the rich and wide-ranging discussion are summed up in this note by the President of the Council, which is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/195 of 21 December 1990.

2. The report of the South Commission was welcomed by the speakers in the debate as a Southern view, offering a comprehensive and balanced analysis of

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* A/46/150.

the challenges faced by the developing countries, and a realistic set of strategies and action proposals to deal with these.

3. The indivisibility and interrelationship of solutions involving national people-centred development efforts, South-South cooperation, North-South relations and equitable management of global interdependence were highlighted. Likewise, the key emphasis given in the report to individual and collective self-reliance of developing countries and mobilization of own capabilities and resources was welcomed. The report, it was felt, provided an analysis and political inspiration of a lasting value, and at the same time it was pragmatic, partnership and action-oriented; it was a valuable contribution to the re-establishment of an international development consensus and indicated a significant convergence of views, although some of the developed countries did not share in all the conclusions expressed in the report, for example those dealing with trade and development in particular in the framework of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

4. The self-critical and frank nature of the report as concerns the state of the South was praised. The basic theme of the report concerning the primary responsibility of developing countries for their own development was reiterated and welcomed repeatedly in the debate. It was stressed, however, that this was not meant in any way to minimize or divert the attention from the critical importance of the international economic environment and of the resource flows from the North in their national development, and that the recommendations of the report were of an integrated and comprehensive character addressing simultaneously national development, South-South cooperation and North-South cooperation.

5. In the debate, emphasis was placed on the growing importance of South-South cooperation as a major pillar of development and the need for greatly increased efforts of developing countries in this domain. The view was strongly expressed that the countries of the North, the United Nations and other multilateral organizations have an obligation to help and facilitate various forms of South-South cooperation.

6. There was a broad acknowledgement that it was necessary to keep up the political momentun generated by the report and to assure that the wide-ranging process that it recommends is launched and sustained. Effective follow-up and implementation were the shared responsibility of individual developing countries, of various mechanisms for South-South cooperation, of the countries of the North, and of the United Nations and multilateral institutions.

7. As an urgent initial step, special emphasis was placed on effective and wide distribution of the report in the South and in the North, so that it could give rise to debate, learning, further thought and action. In view of the practical difficulties of distribution and reaching the readers in the developing countries, it was proposed that necessary funding be allocated by UNDP for purchase and wide distribution of the report to libraries, academic institutions, media, and government institutions in the South. It was further proposed that UNDP offices in individual developing countries serve as focal

points in charge of distribution of the report. Appropriate steps should be taken with the above objectives in mind.

8. On South-South cooperation, the importance of the follow-up mechanisms and self-organization of the South for the implementation of the report was underlined. In this context, attention was drawn to the role and work of the Group of 15. Also, the importance of establishing the South secretariat - which is one of the principal recommendations of the report - was given prominence. The spokesman for the Nordic countries stated their support for creation of the South secretariat, pointing out that as an indication of their interest they had already made financial contributions to the operation of the South Centre, as the follow-up office of the South Commission.

9. The view that the report should be kept alive and dynamic, through periodic reviews and updating of its analysis and recommendations by the countries of the South, and that appropriate mechanisms should be set up for this purpose was widely shared. In this regard, the following suggestions and proposals were made:

(a) Governments, international organizations and other institutions concerned should study and act upon the report and, in particular, on those recommendations which are within their spheres of competence, and, report on a regular basis on actions taken and progress made to the General Assembly;

(b) UNCTAD, UNDP and other developmental bodies of the United Nations system should provide the necessary support to the countries of the South in the context of the implementation of the report. UNDP, in particular, was called to provide financial support for implementation of its recommendations;

(c) The Secretary-General should set up small working groups composed of North and South representatives to consider how to implement various proposals made in the report under a six-point programme of action within the ambit of the North-South dialogue, growing interdependence and the need for a development-oriented international system supportive of sustainable and self-reliant national development efforts of the developing countries.

Notes

1/ Report entitled The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission (New York, Oxford University Press, 1990). For the overview and summary of the report, see A/45/810 and Corr.1, annex.

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QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 45/76 B of 11 December 1990, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session and to the Committee on Information at its thirteenth session, on the implementation of recommendations contained in the resolution.

2. The following documents related to the topics covered by the resolution were submitted to the Committee on Information at its thirteenth session, held from 4 to 19 April 1991:

(a) Public information activities of the United Nations pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine (A/AC.198/1991/4);

(b) Technical assistance to radio stations that are broadcasting on or willing to broadcast to South Africa (A/AC.198/1991/5);

(c) Review of Yearbook of the the United Nations (A/AC.198/1991/6);

(d) Report on the activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (A/AC.198/1991/3).

3. The Under-Secretary-General for Public Information provided additional information in several statements to the Committee on Information.

4. The deliberations of the Committee on Information on those topics and others on its agenda are reflected in the Committee's report to the General

Assembly. 1/ As in the past, the present report attempts to avoid, to the extent possible, repetition of the contents of the reports submitted to the Committee on Information. It deals mainly with items not considered by the Committee or updates the information contained in the reports submitted to the Committee.

5. The present report focuses essentially on special activities and products of the Department. It avoids reference to topics and events covered in regular publications and radio and television programmes such as UN Chronicle, Perspective, UN in Action, World Chronicle, Notes for Speakers and DPI/NGO briefing summaries, which disseminate information on a continuing basis on the whole range of issues dealt with by the United Nations.

II. COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

6. In paragraph 1 (b) (i) of the resolution 45/76 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information cooperate more regularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), especially at the working level, with a view to maximizing the contribution of the Department to the efforts of that organization. Paragraph 1 (c) (vii) of the resolution also called on the Department to provide, on the basis of its activities, information to UNESCO about new forms of cooperation at the regional and subregional levels, for the training of media professionals and for the improvement of the information and communication infrastructure of developing countries.

7. The Department and UNESCO, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized a five-day seminar at Windhoek, Namibia, held from 29 April to 3 May 1991. The Seminar's objective was to give to a professionally and geographically diverse group of news media professionals an opportunity to consider possible ways of developing an independent and pluralistic press in Africa, and to identify actions the implementation of which would foster the progressive emergence of such a press in all African countries. The seminar was attended by 63 participants from 38 African countries. In addition, attending as observers were representatives of 23 other Member States of the United Nations and UNESCO, 3 specialized agencies, 3 intergovernmental and 22 non-governmental organizations.

8. The Seminar adopted a declaration, The Windhoek Declaration on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press. The Declaration proposed that the international community, specifically international organizations, development agencies and professional associations, should, as a matter of priority, direct funding towards the development and establishment of non-governmental newspapers, magazines and periodicals in Africa that reflect the society as a whole and the different points of view within the communities they serve. The participants considered that all funding should aim to encourage pluralism, as well as independence of the media. Accordingly, they

suggested that the public media should be funded only where the authorities guaranteed constitutional and effective freedom of information and expression and the independence of the press. Among the priority concerns emphasized in the Declaration with respect to the preservation of press freedom in African countries were: the establishment of independent and representative associations, trade unions of journalists and associations of editors and publishers; the drafting of national media and labour relations laws to ensure that those associations could fulfil their tasks in defence of press freedom and the elimination of State monopolies in respect of information. The Declaration also proposed that an item dealing with censorship as a grave violation of human rights be included in the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Finally, the United Nations, UNESCO and others were called upon to initiate research on: identification of economic barriers to the establishment of news media outlets and of legal barriers to the effective operation of press trade unions and associations; training of journalists and managers; preparation of a register of available funding from development and other agencies; and the state of press freedom in Africa, country by country.

9. Recognizing the importance of the freedom of the press in the democratization process at the political and cultural level, the Department has continued to expand and strengthen its collaboration with UNESCO. In this context, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department addressed the International Forum on Culture and Democracy, jointly organized by the Government of the Czech and Slovak Republic and UNESCO (held at Prague from 4 to 6 September 1991) and attended the workshop on Media and Democracy. The Forum was designed to help give new impetus to thinking on the nature of democracy, in the light of not only the remarkable progress but also the difficulties that it is experiencing in a great many parts of the world. The event was attended by a number of prominent public figures in the field of politics, academia, law and journalism.

10. Further cooperation between the Department and UNESCO was the joint participation in a one-day seminar on the objectives of the World Decade for Cultural Development - Responding to the Challenge. Attended by representatives of 200 non-governmental organizations, the seminar was organized in cooperation with the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development and held on 30 May 1991 at United Nations Headquarters.

III. COOPERATION WITH THE POOL OF NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES

11. In paragraph 1 (b) (ii) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was requested to enhance its cooperation with news agencies of developing countries, in particular with the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, the Eco-Pool of the News Agencies of Non-Aligned Countries and the Broadcasting Organization of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as with other news agencies and intergovernmental and regional organizations.

12. The Department continued to cooperate with the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries by sending daily news dispatches through TANJUG to more than 90 news agencies members of the Pool. News dispatches were also sent

directly several agencies of the Pool on subjects of interest to them, such as human rights and environment, as well as social and economic problems affecting developing countries.

IV. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

13. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was urged to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to international peace and security. In paragraph 1 (b) (vi), the Department was requested to continue to disseminate information about activities of the United Nations directed at a comprehensive, just and lasting solution of international conflicts by exclusively peaceful means.

14. In November 1990, in response to public demand, the Department produced a reference paper entitled "United Nations Security Council resolutions relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait", containing the first 10 Security Council resolutions adopted in connection with this situation. Since then, the paper was updated in May 1991 to include five additional resolutions and reissued in Arabic (3,000 copies), English (5,000 copies), French and Spanish (3,000 copies each).

15. In May 1991, the Department issued a fact sheet on the role and composition of the Security Council. The fact sheet, which provided a brief description of the Council activities with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security, was also distributed to research institutes and educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations information centres and services.

16. In addition, following the adoption of resolution 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991, whereby the Council approved the Secretary-General's plan for setting up the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), the Department issued an information note describing the functions of the Mission and giving details concerning its composition.

17. In August 1991, another information note was issued on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II). The note contained a historical background of the Mission and its predecessor UNAVEM I and gave details of the new mandate as well as of UNAVEM's current composition and method of operation.

18. The Department, while continuing to provide the usual support to the Secretary-General in his relations with the press, responded to the growing demand for information about the Secretary-General's efforts related to the elimination of the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, the return of stolen property to Kuwait, the establishment of a compensation fund and an array of other tasks outlined by the Security Council. Immediately following the adoption of the resolution, the Department set up a flexible communication network with all the United Nations agencies and bodies involved in implementing the Security Council decisions. This has enabled it to become a focal point of information on the latest developments on these issues.

19. Major statements and documents on these questions issued by the Secretary-General's emissaries and United Nations bodies in Geneva, Vienna or in the Middle East were promptly made available to the press corps in New York. The Department also worked in close cooperation with the Special Commission established in accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, to oversee the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and issued regular updates on its meetings and on the activities of United Nations inspection teams in Iraq.

20. Reflecting the Secretary-General's special concern for the humanitarian situation in the region, the Department paid particular attention to the United Nations Humanitarian Programme in the Middle East/Persian Gulf area by maintaining close contacts with the Office of the Secretary-General's Executive Delegate in Geneva, and the Delegate's representatives in the field. The Department also helped organize press briefings at Headquarters for the Executive Delegate and other special representatives of the Secretary-General and for heads of various United Nations agencies and bodies involved in this effort. Further, the Department organized a briefing on the United Nations relief operations for Gulf War victims. It was attended by some 400 representatives of non-governmental organizations.

21. The Department continued to provide assistance to the Secretary-General during his extensive travels. The Secretary-General's appeals regarding the emergency in the Horn of Africa, as well as the launching of the Western Sahara operation, have substantially increased the volume of press queries handled by the Spokesman's Office.

22. Following the success of its previous round tables that brought together top United Nations officials and senior media representatives from different regions of the world, the Department is now working on a round table for the European press, which is tentatively scheduled for early November 1991.

23. As part of the information programme for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), in late July 1991, the Department produced a brochure that was made available at Headquarters and distributed worldwide in Arabic (5,000 copies), English (6,000 copies), French and Spanish (3,000 copies each). In September 1991, the Department produced a press kit containing a short summary of the Mission's parameters, the text of the Security Council resolution on the establishment of the Mission, the statement and the reports of the Secretary-General on this issue, as well as other relevant facts. It was distributed at Headquarters and worldwide in Arabic and English (2,000 copies each) and in French and Spanish (1,000 copies each).

24. The Department also developed an information programme for the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), for implementation primarily through the media in El Salvador. This programme is intended to publicize the role and work of the human rights verification mission as well as to inform the general public in that country about relevant issues in this regard. The first stage of the information programme at the time of the establishment of the mission included television and radio spots, a press kit and a poster.

The press kit, in English and Spanish, was also distributed to media in other countries through the United Nations information centres and services and UNDP offices. In addition, more than 58,000 copies of selected publications of the Department on human rights, as well as 10,000 copies of the Department's poster containing the text of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights have been made available for use by ONUSAL. The second stage of the information programme, to begin in October 1991, will include wide dissemination in El Salvador of the San José Agreement Human Rights, a weekly half-hour television programme aimed at the general public and other activities.

25. Two important non-governmental organizations briefings were organized by the Department during the reporting period in connection with international peace and security. The briefing entitled "The United Nations and the Electoral Process: The Experience of Namibia, Nicaragua and Haiti" was attended by some 200 non-governmental organizations, while a briefing entitled "Classical Aspects of United Nations Peace-keeping Operations" and the video programme "Changing Role of the United Nations in Peace-keeping" was attended by some 600 representatives of non-governmental organizations.

26. In September 1991, the Department will publish the final report of the Singapore Symposium on "The Changing Role of the United Nations in Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping". The Symposium was held in Singapore in March 1991 and co-sponsored by the Department, the Institute of Policy Studies of Singapore and the Governments of Singapore and Japan. The purpose of the Symposium was to provide for an exchange of ideas among experts on the subject of conflict resolution, peace-keeping and regional security efforts, and to generate a better understanding of the evolving role of the United Nations in these areas. The report will be distributed worldwide through the network of United Nations information centres and services.

27. "Peace, Justice and Development: Ingredients for an Emerging World Order" was the theme of this year's annual conference of non-governmental organizations sponsored by the Department in September 1991. The Conference, which attracted some 1,000 representatives of non-governmental organizations from nearly 60 Member States, examined how recent geopolitical events presented new opportunities for enhancing the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of economic and social development. Conference sessions also focused on the role of media and the opportunities for action by non-governmental organizations. Discussions at strategy sessions examined a broad range of issues including education and democratization, the environment and development, world trade within the context of peace, justice and development. The Conference brought together representatives of professional and business associations, trade unions, religious, youth and women's organizations and many voluntary groups. The final report of the Conference will be issued before the end of 1991 and will contain a summary of the speeches and of the discussions held during the strategy sessions.

V. WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

28. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was further urged to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to disarmament.

29. In accordance with the above recommendation, the Department has continued to publicize United Nations activities in the field of disarmament and to promote further the goals of the World Disarmament Campaign.

30. The Department's press releases disseminated during the reporting period at Headquarters in New York, Geneva and around the world through United Nations information centres and services gave wide coverage to the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament. Several United Nations Information Centres arranged interviews, lectures and round-table discussions on disarmament, some of which were covered by local radio and television. In addition, the Department also issued press releases on a variety of disarmament issues, including statements by the Secretary-General on disarmament; the work of the Disarmament Commission; the Fourth Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference; the Partial Test-Ban Treaty Amendment Conference; the Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign, a number of regional meetings on the subject of disarmament; and public lectures sponsored by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

31. In cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the NGO Committee on Disarmament, the Department of Public Information held (at Headquarters) three briefings for non-governmental organizations on issues relating to disarmament. The briefing entitled "Prospects for the Establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East" was attended by some 400 representatives of non-governmental organizations. The Department also continued to highlight United Nations efforts in the field of disarmament through the guided tours at Headquarters, of which the permanent Disarmament Exhibit is a prominent feature. During the reporting period, this tour was taken by almost 330,000 visitors.

32. United Nations radio and television continued to devote coverage to disarmament and related issues and to disseminate their coverage through broadcasting organizations worldwide in various languages. These issues were regularly featured by DPI radio in its news programmes, regional magazines, documentaries and special-feature radio programmes. United Nations radio and television also covered the work of the General Assembly relating to disarmament, as well as the meetings of the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament.

VI. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

33. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was further requested to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities on human rights. In this connection, the Department has continued to focus its multi-media activities on highlighting ongoing United Nations efforts to protect and promote human rights.

34. During the past year, the Department, particularly through the United Nations information service at Geneva, continued to cover through print, radio and audio-visual programmes, the proceedings of all United Nations intergovernmental bodies dealing with human rights. As part of the Graduate Study Programme organized by the United Nations information service at Geneva in July 1991, the activities for the protection and promotion of human rights were prominently featured. The Department has also continued to produce information material pertaining to human rights and related issues as part of its weekly radio and television programmes in both official and other languages.

35. The network of 67 United Nations information centres and services undertook special information activities in observance of Human Rights Day and other human rights events. These included mounting photographic and poster exhibitions; showing films for various audiences; producing background material, fact sheets, information kits and newsletters; re-disseminating relevant information materials from Headquarters such as press kits, background notes, press releases and official documents and translating them into local languages; organizing or assisting in meetings, public gatherings and briefings; participating in seminars, panels and lectures for educational and other institutions; and giving interviews to local press.

36. The Department continued its efforts to ensure comprehensive documentation and reference services on human rights for users at the libraries of information centres and services. Earlier this year, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, the Department finalized a basic list of reference and information material on human rights that will enable the Centre for Human Rights to provide basic documentation to United Nations information centres that lack certain documentation on this issue.

37. In keeping with its mandate, four of the Department's feature articles issued during 1991 under the title United Nations Focus, (in English, French and Spanish) dealt with human rights issues: "Searching for the pernicious roots of racism" (DPI/1150); "Human Rights Covenants" (DPI/1153); "Specialists who monitor human rights" (DPI/1155); and "The trade of shame: the sale of children" (DPI/1156).

38. The Department's biannual publication Objective: Justice in its recent issues focused on the international covenants on human rights and the work of specialists who monitor human rights, racism and protection of the rights of migrant workers.

39. Among the new publications that the Department is completing in 1991 are an illustrated publication on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (DPI/1101) and a publication on the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (DPI/1055), both in all the official languages.

40. In 1991, the Department completed 14 reprints and/or new official language productions of seven human rights instruments. These include: "Principles of medical ethics" (DPI/801), in Arabic and Russian; "Declaration of the Right of Peoples to Peace" (DPI/844), in Chinese; "Declaration of the Human Rights of Individuals Who are not Nationals of the Country in which They Live" (DPI/894), in Russian; "Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children, with Special Reference to Foster Placement and Adoption Nationally and Internationally" (DPI/914), in all the official languages except English; and "Human rights: questions and answers" (DPI/919), in Spanish; the poster "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (DPI/936), in Spanish; and "Human rights and social and economic development: a selection of publications" (DPI/1028), in French and Spanish.

41. Production of local language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights continued. In 1990-1991, 20 local language versions will be printed with the assistance of the United Nations information centres and services. So far, the Haitian Creole, Indonesian and Mikmaq (spoken along Canada's Atlantic coast) versions have been published. Several United Nations information centres have also reported the printing of local language versions of other human rights instruments and documents.

42. The animated short film entitled "Brushstrokes", released by the Department in 1990, has received two international animation awards from the Association Internationale d'Animation. This film on prejudice is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

43. As part of the About the United Nations educational video series, the Department will complete a video and an accompanying teaching guide on the rights of the child. This video kit will be available to non-governmental organizations and educational institutions worldwide.

44. A Department of Public Information International Journalists Round Table on Human Rights and the United Nations will be held in New York from 14 to 16 October 1991. The main speakers will be senior United Nations officials, diplomats, journalists and experts from non-governmental organizations. Some 70 journalists from all regions are expected to attend. Among the participants will be the 16 journalists who will also attend the Department of Public Information Training Programme for Broadcasters and Journalists from Developing Countries.

45. In keeping with its role as coordinator of the activities of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, the Department submitted a proposal to the thirty-fifth session of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC), held at New York in June 1991, regarding the establishment

of an inter-agency working group on human rights. Emphasis will be placed on the preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in 1993, and on the International Year for the World's Indigenous People to be observed the same year.

46. In preparation for the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, scheduled for September 1991, the Department has presented a proposal for a public information programme and information coverage requirements for the World Conference.

VII. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO WOMEN AND THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY

47. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was further requested to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to the advancement of the status of women and their role in society. As part of its efforts to develop a more effective information programme aimed at the public, the Department has produced a series of United Nations Focus articles and fact sheets on a variety of issues, such as literacy as a tool for empowering women, women and AIDS, refugee women, the quest for women's rights and the interdependence of women and the environment, especially in developing countries. An issue was dedicated to the presentation of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

48. To commemorate International Women's Day and to initiate its annual two-day orientation and training course for some 90 newly-accredited representatives of non-governmental organizations, the Department sponsored a panel discussion on the theme "Making women count in the nineties", attended by some 600 non-governmental representatives of organizations at United Nations Headquarters.

49. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/14 of 24 May 1990, which requested a world-wide information campaign to increase awareness of the obstacles encountered in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, the Department is publishing a book entitled Women: challenges to the year 2000 (DPI/1134) in English, French and Spanish. Using the cover design and selected contents of this book, public service announcements, a poster and a wall chart will be designed for use in connection with International Women's Day 1992.

50. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Department supplied information materials to United Nations information centres and services, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) field offices and inter-agency focal points for women.

51. On 21 June 1991, the Department coordinated the inauguration of the publication The World's Women 1970-1990, in cooperation with the book's co-sponsors - the United Nations Statistical Office, the United Nations

Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. This event was widely publicized by both print and audio-visual media in many countries. The second phase of publicity for this book will coincide with United Nations Day 1991, when United Nations information centres and services will be encouraged to publicize the book during their United Nations Day activities.

52. On United Nations Day 1991, a panel discussion will be held within the context of the annual Department of Public Information Training Programme for Broadcasters and Journalists from Developing Countries. It will focus on sex stereotyping in the media in different regions and cultures of the world and propose ways and means of sensitizing journalists and broadcasters to the in-built biases and the use of sexist terminology.

53. The Department continues its production of the special radio feature documentary programme Women, which is received on a regular basis by more than 300 radio organizations worldwide, in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. In the period under consideration, a number of programmes were prepared, including "Women refugees", "The girl child", "Women in the informal sector", "Prostitution", "Women and the environment" and "Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children".

VIII. ACTIVITIES ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

54. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was requested to continue to disseminate, in coordination with the information services of other relevant agencies, information about United Nations activities pertaining to the problems of economic and social development, as well as international cooperation aimed at resolving external debt problems.

55. In pursuance of this mandate, the Department widely publicized the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. It also produced a summary of the Strategy in English, French and Spanish (DPI/1107) and arranged a briefing by a senior United Nations official for the representatives of international non-governmental organizations.

56. The World Economic Survey 1991 was well publicized and widely reported in the international media. The Department also produced a press summary in English, French and Spanish (DPI/1148), organized a press conference by senior United Nations officials in both New York and Geneva, arranged separate press interviews and alerted prominent economic journalists in advance of the report's official release.

57. The work of the Committee for Development Planning was also widely publicized by the Department. An article entitled "Assessing the impact on developing countries of economic reforms in Eastern Europe: views of the Committee for Development Planning" (DPI/1139) was produced in English, French

and Spanish and distributed worldwide through the network of the United Nations information centres and services. The Department gave wide coverage to the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council, held at Geneva on 4 and 5 July 1991, to discuss the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic cooperation. It produced special information kits in English and French (DPI/1152) for Geneva-based journalists.

58. A number of economic development issues were aired in the Department's television and radio programmes, including the role of women in agriculture and in meeting other development challenges, the use of nuclear techniques and geothermal power for economic development, coping with external debt in developing countries and economic development in Eastern Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

59. On the subject of youth, the Department produced and distributed in English, French and Spanish, a leaflet entitled: "The United Nations youth: participation, development, peace" (DPI/1129). This leaflet contained a summary of activities and programmes provided by the United Nations agencies and programmes for youth and youth organizations.

60. The Department has continued the production of the biannual pamphlet, "The United Nations social agenda", highlighting issues of ageing, family and the implementation of United Nations strategies and plans of action in the social area.

61. Social issues have continued to be a focus of work of the United Nations radio and television. The radio programmes Scope (devoted to problems of social development) and Perspective produced, among others, "A look at UNDP projects for indigenous people", "A new global agenda for human development", and "United Nations humanitarian assistance in the Persian Gulf". The television series United Nations In Action broadcast on Cable News Network worldwide, which featured programmes such as "AIDS campaign in Thailand", "Egypt's farm prison", and "Adolescent mothers in Panama", among others, served as a channel for the exchange of valuable experience and knowledge on United Nations cooperation with different countries in dealing with pressing problems of human development.

62. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, to be observed in 1992, the Department is working closely with the non-governmental organization community, including the NGO Committee on Ageing, on ways and means to promote awareness of challenges and opportunities presented by the phenomenon of ageing. A briefing for non-governmental organizations entitled "Humanity comes of age" will be held in New York on 3 October 1991 in connection with the International Day for the Elderly.

63. Work is continuing on the preparation of a system-wide publication on activities concerning disabled persons, which is scheduled for completion in

1992. The objective is to present to the public, media and policy makers a system-wide record of United Nations accomplishments during the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992) and to generate greater awareness of the United Nations role in improving the situation facing persons with disabilities worldwide.

64. Ten radio programmes in three languages and two United Nations in Action television feature programmes on disability-related themes were produced by the Department during the reporting period.

65. The Department's film on disability "Breaking barriers" received the Blue Ribbon First Prize at the American Film Festival held at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a Silver Medal in the category of human concerns at the International Film and Television Festival held in New York, the First Prize at "Superfest" held at Burbank, California, and an award from the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries at the Second Pyongyang Film Festival held at Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

66. Extensive coverage by the Department of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Havana from 27 August to 7 September 1990, continued to generate wide interest from the academic community, non-governmental organizations, students and the general public for the United Nations crime prevention programme. The booklet "United Nations and crime prevention and criminal justice" (DPI/1143), produced by the Department in English, French and Spanish, highlights the history, structure and increased activity of the Global Crime and Criminal Justice Information Network. In response to various requests, the booklet also contains a compilation of the United Nations instruments on the subject of crime prevention, including measures against terrorism.

IX. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH AFRICAN RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

67. In paragraph 1 (b) (iv) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was urged to do its utmost to publicize and to disseminate widely the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 and the tremendous efforts of the African countries towards recovery and development, as well as the response by the international community to alleviate the serious economic situation prevailing in Africa. As this fall the General Assembly will undertake a final review of the Programme of Action, the Department has prepared and distributed a special media kit containing the Secretary-General's report for the final review and extensive analyses of Africa's economy in the period 1986-1990, from the perspectives of various United Nations agencies involved in economic recovery efforts in Africa.

68. Earlier this year, the third in the series of Africa Recovery Briefing Papers, entitled "Africa's population crisis: formulating effective policies" was published in English and French.

69. For the Economic Commission for Africa, the Department prepared a popular version of the report entitled "African alternative framework to structural adjustment programmes for socio-economic recovery and transformation", issued in English and French. The purpose of this popular version of the report was to disseminate more widely African concerns about the shortcomings of orthodox structural adjustment programmes.

70. The Department was also responsible for ensuring international media attendance for the Conference on African Security and Stability, held at Kampala, Uganda, from 19 to 22 May 1991. The media represented at the Conference included: Financial Times, Associated Press, Reuter, BBC, de Volkskrant (Netherlands), Los Angeles Times, The Economist, New African, Voice of America and The Times (London).

71. In addition, the Department continued to present the United Nations perspective on the continuing African economic crisis through articles written for the print media and through interviews with the broadcast media.

X. ACTIVITIES PERTAINING TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

72. The Department was requested in paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 45/76 B to continue to disseminate, in coordination with the information services of other relevant agencies, information about United Nations activities pertaining to the environment and development.

73. In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to be held in Brazil in June 1992, the Department has undertaken a programme of activities in support of the Conference. Among those are the finalized proposals for an inter-agency programme to be carried out by all agencies of the United Nations system. The programme was presented to JUNIC at its June 1991 meeting for consideration of financing and agency participation.

74. During the reporting period, United Nations information centres and services were requested to start preparations for local programming in support of UNCED. The Department also devised guidelines for activities to be carried out by all United Nations information centres and services from within existing resources.

75. As part of its pre-conference publicity, the Department has produced and distributed a brochure (DPI/1118) in all official languages and in Portuguese. To date, the brochure has been distributed in the following numbers of copies: Arabic 4,200, Chinese 4,100, English 60,000, French 17,500, Portuguese 4,500, Russian 3,800, and Spanish 13,000. Three feature articles in the Earth Summit in Focus series have been issued. Also, starting with its May/June 1991 edition, each issue of the Development Forum has carried a full page on the Conference.

76. The Department has produced stories for radio features, magazine and news programmes on environment and development, prepared various contributions for special documentary programmes and searched for suitable free-lance producers for these programmes that are financed from extrabudgetary sources. Television publicity has also been pursued by the Department through the work produced by United Nations Television, in the United Nations in Action series. Further, the Department has prepared a series of video news backgrounders to facilitate local coverage of the Conference worldwide. Moreover, an educational video and accompanying teaching guide on environment and development, to be produced in the About the United Nations series, is also in preparation.

77. The Department has also organized international press and television coverage of the UNCED preparatory meetings, held both at the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

78. The Department continued to arrange group briefings on the subject of the environment, one of the most commonly requested topics for briefings. Environment and Development was also chosen as the central theme of the 1991 Department of Public Information Headquarters Programme for Graduate Students. Forty-one students from 27 countries took part in the work programme and were briefed on this issue by officials of the United Nations system, delegations, prominent professionals and academics.

79. In connection with World Environment Day 1991, the Inaugural Earth Prize Awards sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Earth were held on 5 June 1991 for an invited audience assembled in the General Assembly Hall. The Department coordinated this event with the sponsors, providing television coverage of the awarding of the first Earth Prize to eminent persons, including the Executive Director of UNICEF and the head of Turner Broadcasting System. In observance of World Environment Day, the Department also organized a symposium in cooperation with the non-governmental organization Committee on UNIFEM. Its theme, "The human dimension in environment and development", attracted more than 250 participating non-governmental organizations.

80. As part of the Department's publicity efforts for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the Department produced a poster entitled "Natural disasters: are you prepared?" (DPI/1084) and a brochure on the Decade (DPI/0178), both in English, French and Spanish, and distributed them worldwide. A 30-minute documentary video on aspects of the Decade, filmed in Bangladesh, Colombia, Japan and the United States of America, has been completed by the Department in cooperation with a Japanese production company.

81. The Department has also produced a video entitled "Up against nature". It stresses disaster-prone areas and the importance of scientific and technical knowledge and public information in reducing the effects of natural disasters. The video has been produced in English and will be produced in other languages.

82. The UN Chronicle, the Department's quarterly magazine, in its June 1991 issue, devoted its cover section to "Coping with disaster - International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction". Copies were distributed to all the national committees and focal points.

XI. CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS AND DRUG ABUSE

83. The Department of Public Information was urged, in paragraph 1 (b) (iii), to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to the international campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

84. During the reporting period, a public service announcement carrying the message "The United Nations fights drug abuse worldwide" was placed in various international news magazine editions. During the last six months of 1990, this announcement ran in at least 26 different weekly editions of Time, covering virtually every country in Western and Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America, as well as the United States, Canada and several South-East Asian countries. From January to June 1991, the announcement appeared in at least 22 different weekly editions of Time.

85. The 1990 Report of the International Narcotics Control Board was made available to journalists, and a press release summarizing its contents was produced and distributed by the Department. Major newspapers and wire services carried stories concerning the report.

86. In cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the Department prepared feature stories in English, French and Spanish on detecting drug crops from space and destroying them without harming the environment. These were distributed to news correspondents, non-governmental organizations and all United Nations Information Centres and Services.

87. The Department's new video on the international drug situation entitled "High hopes" was completed in English and shown at the 1991 observances of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held at Headquarters and United Nations information centres worldwide on 26 June 1991. The 27-minute video, which will also be available in Arabic, French and Spanish, illustrates several constructive approaches to the problem.

88. As part of the observance of the International Day at Headquarters, the Executive Director of UNDCP addressed a meeting of non-governmental organizations and held a press conference organized by the Department. The observance also included the screening of the video and a concert with singers from a drug treatment centre. The special messages of the Secretary-General and of the Executive Director of UNDCP were distributed to news media and representatives of non-governmental organizations. Away from Headquarters,

the observances of the International Day included, inter alia, statements and messages by high government officials, panel discussions by experts in drug abuse control, poster and essay competitions, poetry readings, a model national congress on drug control for young people and video screenings.

89. A major project currently in process is the photo-video exhibition entitled "Picture a drug-free world" being developed by the Department in cooperation with UNDCP and the International Photographic Council. Expected to open at Headquarters in 1992, the exhibit is being funded from extrabudgetary sources and is expected to include an innovative "video wall". Depending on the extent of funding available, plans call for publication of an exhibition booklet and various media promotion activities, including television interviews and photo essays. Organizations of the United Nations system involved in drug control-related programmes are being invited to submit photographs for the exhibition.

90. During the period under review, the Department produced 62 radio programmes addressing various drug control questions in 11 languages. Three United Nations in Action television programmes on drug abuse control were also produced and distributed to television networks around the world.

XII. ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF APARTHEID

91. In paragraph 1 (b) (v) of resolution 45/76 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department enhance the effectiveness of its activities and the dissemination of information on United Nations activities against the policies and practices of apartheid giving due attention to the unilateral measures and official censorship imposed on the local and international media with regard to all aspects of that issue.

92. The Department continued to promote the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989. This was primarily carried out through the promotion campaign built around the photo exhibit jointly produced by the Centre Against Apartheid and the Department under the title "Apartheid South Africa Travelling Exhibit". In light of the rapidly changing situation in South Africa, the photo exhibit has been going through a constant process of updating to reflect new developments. The photo exhibit and its different language versions (English, French and Spanish) was shown in Argentina, Cuba, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Mexico and Switzerland. Promotional activities, including seminars, dissemination of brochures and other information material and press conferences, were carried out through United Nations information centres and services to reinforce the message conveyed through the exhibit and embodied in the Declaration.

93. The Department widely distributed the seven-language versions of the poster "For a United, Non-Racial and Democratic South Africa" which it had produced on the occasion of 21 March, the International Day for the

Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The postcard version of the poster, also produced in seven languages, was widely distributed.

XIII. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

94. In paragraph 1 (b) (vii) of resolution 45/76 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department continues to cover all United Nations activities pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine in particular, and current developments in the region.

95. In addition to activities reported to the Committee on Information in document A/AC.198/1991/4, the Department continued information projects within the framework of its special programme on the question of Palestine mandated under General Assembly resolutions 44/41 C of 6 December 1989, and 45/67 C of 6 December 1990. In those resolutions, the General Assembly requested the Department, inter alia, to organize regional and national encounters for journalists on the question of Palestine, with particular emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America.

96. Accordingly, the Department co-sponsored two national encounters for journalists on the question of Palestine that were held at Brussels on 22 May 1991 and at Bonn on 24 May 1991. The event in Brussels was hosted in cooperation with the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab cooperation and the Commission of the European Communities, while the event held at Bonn was organized in cooperation with the German Association for the United Nations. The theme of the two encounters was the protection of Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation. Participating in the events were eminent Palestinian and Israeli panelists. The two encounters were moderated by a senior official of the Department.

97. With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Department sponsored a regional encounter for European journalists on the question of Palestine. It was held at Helsinki from 3 to 5 June 1991. The nine-member panel, which explored the prospects for an international peace conference on the Middle East, was moderated by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs. Altogether, 64 media participants, including columnists, senior editors and editorial writers representing major news organizations around the world, participated in the encounter. All three encounters generated international media coverage worldwide, and in Europe in particular.

XIV. YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS

98. In paragraph 1 (d), of resolution 45/76 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to make further efforts regarding the timely appearance of the Yearbook of the United Nations. At its thirteenth session, in April 1991, the Committee on Information endorsed the assessment of the Secretary-General with regard to the future of the Yearbook, as contained in document A/AC.198/1991/6. Furthermore, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations contained in document A/AC.198/1991/6, particularly as regards paragraphs 66 and 67.

99. The Secretary-General's recommendations in paragraphs 66 and 67 were as follows:

> "66. In order to put an end to the accumulation of the backlog and restore the production of the Yearbook of the United Nations to the normal cycle of an annual publication, it is imperative for the Department:
>
> (a) To treat its backlog-tackling efforts separately from the book's current conditions of production;
>
> (b) To undertake the simultaneous production of the four backlog editions (41:1987 to 44:1990), issuing them no later than, and coinciding with the release of volume 45:1991 in, July 1993.
>
> "67. To this end, immediate consideration should be given to the proposed offer made by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers ... involving the funding of temporary personnel required to eliminate the four backlog editions in a period of two years. Furthermore, the Department should decide upon accepting the offer as soon as all its details are formally presented. It is suggested that, in coordination with the Department's Publications Service, four teams be established (each formed by three editors/writers with recognized experience in the public information activities of the United Nations) and assigned to work simulataneously on all the backlog editions. The four editions should be prepared in accordance with the specifications drawn by the Department's Information Products Division, including mechanisms to issue them in abbreviated form. The external publisher's offer to take over responsibility for typesetting and proofreading the texts of the four editions, as well as his suggestion to establish a more realistic print run for each backlog edition, should also be considered."

100. Since the submission of the Secretary-General's report to the Committee on Information, the Department has made considerable progress in the production of volume 41:1987, one of the four backlog editions. Camera-ready films for the volume are expected to be completed and delivered to the printers by 31 December 1991, with publication date set for February 1992. The necessary contractual agreements have already been executed.

101. As a result of progress in the production of volume 41:1987, arrangements with the external publishers for elimination of the backlog will be limited to three editions, namely, 42:1988, 43:1989 and 44:1990. The production rates of these three editions will vary from 14 to 16 months, depending upon the availability of necessary materials and the additional period required to conduct research, prepare outlines and solicit contributions from various agencies and departments.

102. The proposed arrangements negotiated by the Department with Martinus Nijhoff provide for the external publisher to hire and make available for direct supervision by the Department, 12 experienced editors/writers on a temporary basis to work on eliminating the backlog editions. The first five editors/writers are due on board by the first week of October, with the remaining seven to be hired by 31 December 1991. In return, the United Nations would accept suspension of the payment of royalties by the external publisher in respect of the backlog editions.

103. On the basis of the latest information available, it is now projected that the production period for volume 42:1988 would run from January 1992 to the end of February 1993, while the production schedule for the remaining two backlog editions (volumes 43:1989 and 44:1990) would run concurrently from June 1992 to the end of November 1993.

104. With regard to the preparation of volume 45:1991, the Department is already collecting the relevant materials and requesting contributions from various agencies and departments. Production is scheduled for completion by the end of November 1992.

105. In accordance with the recommendations contained in document A/AC.198/1991/6, and taking into account the views expressed by members of the Committee on Information, the Yearbook is undergoing fundamental restructuring with respect to its nature, scope and contents, as well as the production process involved. In this regard, the Department has established new research and editorial guidelines as the basis for the production of the backlog and current editions. The Yearbook's substantive sections will thereby be reduced from 67 to 60 chapters and its standard size will not exceed 1,200 pages.

106. The primary objective of the Department's efforts as described above is to restore the regular and timely production of the Yearbook, while at the same time maintaining the high standards of quality and accuracy that have distinguished the Yearbook as the most authoritative reference publication on the work of the Organization.

XV. STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRES AND SERVICES

107. In paragraph 1 (g) of resolution 45/76 B, the General Assembly requested that the United Nations information centres intensify direct and systematic communication exchange with local media, information and educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. The Department was also requested to continue to cooperate closely with other field offices of the United Nations system, particularly those of UNDP, in order to avoid duplication of work, taking into account the functional autonomy that the United Nations information centres should have. The Department was also urged to pursue the process of linking the remaining United Nations information centres that have not been linked with electronic mail.

108. United Nations information centres have been strengthening their cooperation with non-governmental organizations, in particular with national United Nations associations, and with educational institutions, in promoting a wider public awareness and understanding of the United Nations. Stimulating and sustaining the interest of the academic and intellectual communities has been, and continues to be, highlighted. United Nations information centres continue to make efforts in order to ensure that study of the United Nations becomes part of the regular national curricula, and Directors of all centres are encouraged to participate widely in lectures and other public speaking activities.

109. The relationship between the information centres and UNDP field offices has merited special attention. An initial understanding reached in 1990 was tested in the field and finalized at the end of the year. A significant aspect of the closer partnership is that UNDP Resident Representatives serve concurrently as Directors/Acting Directors of information centres. Further, in a complementary measure, and with the active support of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, those UNDP Resident Representatives who are Resident Coordinators in developing countries receive intensive public information briefings before taking up their functions. This is of particular significance in countries where there are no information centres.

110. Directives to information centres to work closely in the field with UNDP Resident Representatives and other members of the United Nations family have produced visible impact not only in portraying a unified image of the United Nations, but also in pooling resources. Examples include sharing common office premises wherever practical and, in some instances, sharing common reference library services.

111. Representatives of UNDP and the agencies are also invited to participate in annual regional meetings of Centre Directors organized by the Department. In addition, the Department distributes a variety of printed information to UNDP offices and audio-visual material directly to broadcasting organizations in countries where there are no United Nations information centres, in order to ensure timely receipt and extensive usage of material produced by the

Department. This cooperation, including the financial aspects, continues to be pursued further directly with each member of the United Nations family and through JUNIC.

112. The Department continues the process of linking all United Nations information centres with electronic mail. Directors of centres that do not have this service are checking regularly if access to public international data networks is possible and if local telecommunications conditions make such connections feasible. In recent months, electronic mail has been installed at Dakar, Moscow and Panama City, and the Department expects to add Cairo, Harare, Islamabad, New Delhi, Port of Spain and Prague to the network before the end of 1991.

113. The availability of personal computers is another major factor in establishing electronic mail links. The Department is making every effort to provide computers to as many centres as is financially possible during the current biennium. Since the beginning of 1991, the Department has computerized an additional 25 centres - 15 in Africa (Accra, Addis Ababa, Brazzaville, Cairo, Dakar, Dar-es-Salaam, Harare, Khartoum, Lagos, Lusaka, Maseru, Ouagadougou, Rabat, Tunis and Yaounde), three in Latin America and the Caribbean (Managua, Panama and Port of Spain), three in the Asia and Pacific region (Colombo, Dhaka, Islamabad) and four in Europe (Ankara, Bucharest, Moscow and Prague).

114. Electronic equipment for information centres has been and continues to be modernized. Besides provision of computers and electronic mail linkage, 44 centres/services have fully operational facsimile machines.

XVI. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION TO EDUCATORS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

115. The Department was urged in paragraph 1 (c) (viii) or resolution 45/76 B to cooperate with educational institutions of Member States, educators, and education policy makers, informing them about United Nations activities.

116. In this regard, the Department is in ongoing daily contact with educators and educational institutions, primarily (but not exclusively) those in North America. The activities in this regard include arranging briefing programmes for educators at Headquarters or sending Secretariat officials to address groups on various issues; scheduling group visits to Headquarters where, through the guided tour, educators are informed about the history and full range of United Nations activities; and preparation of information packets for schools/teachers along with responding to their requests for information on the United Nations.

117. Beyond the regular contact with educators/educational institutions, the Department also arranges special events and activities to heighten interest in the Organization. One of these was an information fair held at Headquarters in 1990, where 14 United Nations programmes and specialized agencies

participated. Representatives of participating organizations were able to meet one-on-one with teachers and students, providing them with relevant information materials and giving them the opportunity to learn more about the entire United Nations system. The fair was deemed a success by visitors and participants alike and is to be repeated and possibly even expanded in the future.

XVII. ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR BROADCASTERS AND JOURNALISTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

118. In paragraph 1 (c) (vi) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was urged to continue its briefing assistance and orientation programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries.

119. In this connection, the Department's 1991 six-week training programme, to be held in September, will bring together 16 broadcasters and journalists from Argentina, Bhutan, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Cyprus, Egypt (in place of the United Arab Emirates, which was unable to send any nomination), Fiji, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. During the programme, the participants will receive in-service training, undertake work assignments and receive briefings from United Nations officials. They will also serve as temporary United Nations correspondents, covering the General Assembly on behalf of their home media organizations.

XVIII. COORDINATION OF INFORMATION ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

120. In paragraph 1 (h) of resolution 45/76 B, in recognition of the need for coordinating information activities of the United Nations system, the Department was encouraged to continue its active participation in the work of the Joint United Nations Information Committee.

121. As the secretariat of the Committee, the Department organized the seventeenth session of the Committee, convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Richard Lydiker (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and held from 24 to 26 June 1991 at United Nations Headquarters. The report of the Committee is to be submitted to the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/46/21).

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 4 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that you arrange for the distribution as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 30 of the provisional agenda, the Abuja Statement on South Africa adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Southern Africa at its meeting at Abuja, Nigeria, on 29 July 1991.

(Signed) Dámaso-Obiang NDONG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group
for the month of September

* A/46/150.

ANNEX

Abuja Statement on South Africa adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Southern Africa at Abuja, Nigeria, on 29 July 1991

1. Pursuant to the Abuja Declaration on South Africa adopted by the Twenty-Seventh Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on 5 June 1991, the OAU Ad Hoc Committee on Southern Africa met at Abuja on 29 July 1991 to review recent developments in South Africa.

2. Since the Abuja Summit, significant developments have taken place. The pillars of apartheid legislation, such as the Group Areas Act, the Population Registration Act and the Land Acts, have been repealed. However, the painful legacies of these acts remain.

3. The Committee welcomes the repeal of these laws, but notes that the fundamental basis of apartheid - the undemocratic constitution - remains in place. The fundamental question of negotiations and modalities for a non-racial and democratic constitution has not yet been addressed. The Internal Security Act and a host of other laws continue to proscribe freedom, political activity and still reinforce the apartheid system. Many political prisoners remain incarcerated and not all exiles have been allowed to return.

4. The Committee underscores the fact that central to the struggle for the eradication of apartheid is the transfer of power to a democratic government elected on the basis of a non-racial and democratic constitution. It reasserts that negotiations leading to the drawing up and adoption of this constitution is now the most urgent and pressing question. To this end, it calls upon the national liberation movements and all the anti-apartheid forces to work in concert within the framework of a patriotic front.

5. The Committee, therefore, calls on the international community to exert all forms of pressure on the Government of South Africa to adopt a democratic mechanism of an elected constituent assembly and the formation of an interim administration, which together will ensure the drawing up of a democratic non-racial constitution guaranteeing universal suffrage.

6. In this connection, the Committee regrets the action taken by certain countries to lift sanctions unilaterally and prematurely while the process for the eradication of apartheid is not yet irreversible. This action can only serve the purpose of removing the incentive for negotiations, embolden the die-hard elements in the apartheid system and ultimately undermine the process of change now budding in South Africa. This unfortunate, unilateral and premature action is not only contrary to the Harare Declaration, it also violates the 1989 United Nations consensus Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa.

7. The Committee notes that sanctions have been a potent weapon and an integral part of the strategy in the struggle against apartheid. They have, to a large extent, been instrumental in raising the cost of apartheid and compelling the regime to accept the principle of negotiation. As a powerful form of pressure sanctions continue to be needed to bring the apartheid regime to the negotiating table and to keep it committed to the process of change. The Committee, therefore, commends those countries which have not yet lifted sanctions, and calls on them to maintain sanctions as a form of pressure to ensure constitutional change. It also urges those who have lifted some sanctions to maintain the remaining sanctions and to use their leverage on the South African regime to accelerate the process of constitutional change.

8. The Committee notes that the revelation of the Government of South Africa's collusion with, and funding of, the Inkatha Freedom Party confirms what OAU and the oppressed people of South Africa have consistently stated as the Government of South Africa's sponsorship of the violence in the townships and the destabilization of the liberation movements. This revelation, while increasing the credibility of the liberation movements, has seriously eroded the confidence in the goodwill and intention of the apartheid regime and has cast serious doubts on its honesty and its commitment to change. The revelations of duplicity and bad faith on the part of the de Klerk Government should rekindle the resolve of the international community to exert maximum pressure on the regime to expedite the process of change.

9. The Inkatha scandal and the acknowledgement by the apartheid regime of the existence of slush-funds, and the use thereof, have created a crisis of confidence that is seriously threatening the process of change in South Africa. The onus now rests squarely on Mr. de Klerk to demonstrate good faith and move swiftly to rebuild confidence and promptly begin the process of negotiations towards a new constitution, which would lead to the establishment of a democratic, non-racial government in South Africa within a time-frame to be agreed by all the parties concerned.

10. The Committee resolves to intensify diplomatic and other international actions on behalf of OAU, to mobilize support in order to exert maximum pressure on the apartheid regime to create the conditions conducive to negotiations, to commence the process of negotiations and to proceed with the promulgation of a new constitution. The fundamental rights of all South Africans, including the right to vote, should be fully guaranteed by that constitution.

11. The Ad Hoc Committee decides therefore to undertake diplomatic action through the current Chairman of OAU to mobilize support. The Committee has also decided to dispatch as appropriate ministerial delegations to certain capitals in order to further this objective.